

# 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.



## Spring 2014



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### 21CR155: A Multicomponent Site on the Minnesota River Valley

by Kent Bakken

From mid-November to mid-January, archaeologists working with Florin Cultural Resource Services, LLC began work on the excavation of 21CR155, a deeply buried, multicomponent site on the north edge of the Minnesota River valley near Chaska, Chanhassen and Shakopee. Previous survey and testing for a planned highway project in that location had found archaeo-



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



### Rhoda Gilman Honored at MAS Annual Meeting

April's Annual Meeting this year honored long-time archaeology supporter and historian Rhoda Gilman with the RHODA GILMAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD for her many years of service on the boards of both MAS and, previously, the now-defunct Institute of Minnesota Archaeology. The forty-some attendees heard Wisconsin archaeologists Dr. Kathy Stevenson and Dr. Constance Arzigian of the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Society share their incredible discoveries under the main street of Onalaska, Wisconsin. Highway

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Spring 2014 Newsletter  
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 recent Board of Directors activities. The following is a brief recap of the events, discussions, and decisions that transpired during the past quarter.

Lithic Materials Workshop:

The third Lithic Materials Workshop was held February 28 through March 1, 2014 at the University of Wisconsin at Lacrosse. The Minnesota Archaeological Society cosponsored the event by providing lunch both days and an information booth with MAS literature, current journals, and membership forms.

A number of informative lectures were presented during course of the conference, and an area was set aside for those who wished to try their hand at flint-knapping. Estimated attendance was 120 individuals.

Annual Dinner Meeting:

The Annual dinner meeting was held on April 18, 2014 at Anderson Center on the campus of Hamline University. A short and informal business meeting was held to elect the officers for the next term.

Rod Johnson – will maintain his position as president for one more term

Dan Went – is assuming the duties of Vice President

Pat Emerson – will be taking on secretary duties

Paul Schoenholz – is continuing as Treasurer.

Rhoda Gilman was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of service and dedication to the Minnesota archaeology community.

Dr. Kathy Stevenson and Dr. Constance Arzigian co-presented a lively and informative presentation of the findings of the summer 2012 investigation at the Onalaska site in Wisconsin.

This year's annual event was the best attended in current memory with over 40 members gathered. It was agreed that this was one of the most interesting meetings ever, substantiated by the fact that no one seemed to want to leave!

Rod was caught knapping on

- |                   |              |  |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| •February 8, 2014 | 12:00 – 4:00 | North Dale Recreation Center - 1414 St. Albans St, St Paul, MN |
| •March 11, 2014   | 1:00 to 2:00 | Anoka Public Library – Crooked Lake Branch, Coon Rapids, MN    |
| •April 22, 2014   | 12:30 – 2:30 | Class at Normandale Collage                                    |
| •May 4, 2014      | 2:00 – 4:00  | Pond Mission House, Bloomington, MN                            |
| •June 7, 2014     | 11:00 – 2:00 | Cannon Valley Trail Day, Welch Station                         |

Nifty Quotes:

“HAPPINESS ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME. I DEMAND EUPHORIA!” Calvin & Hobbes

Visit us on Facebook

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)

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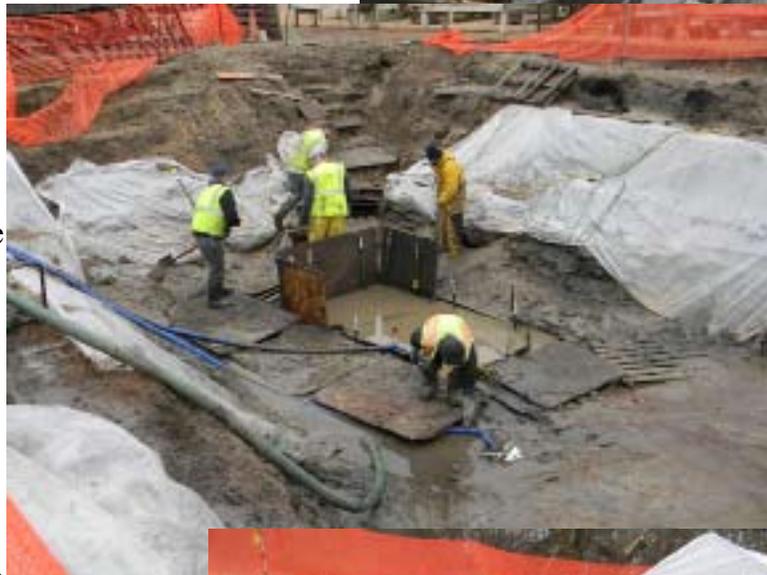
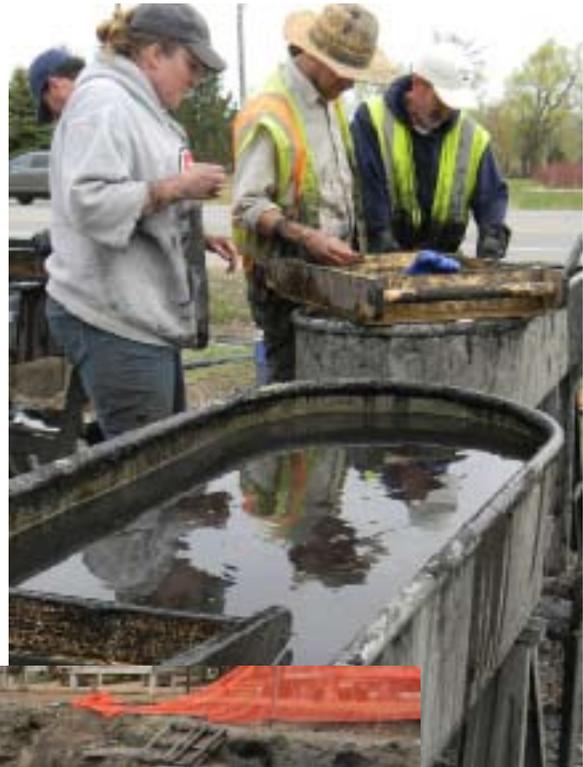
logical components ranging from Early Archaic (ca. 8,000 years old) to Late Archaic (ca. 3,000 years old), buried from 1 to 3 meters below the present surface. In addition to the challenges of excavating deeply buried deposits and doing winter excavation in Minnesota, the project was also complicated by the fact that parts of the site lay in wetlands.

The archaeology at 21CR155 was found in a stratigraphically complex landscape that included alluvial fans (deposits built up from sediment washing down stream channels from the uplands above the river), silt deposited by flooding of the Minnesota River, clay deposited in lake waters, and organic mucks formed in more recent wetlands. Underlying all of these deposits were sands and other sediments laid down by Glacial River Warren as it drained Glacial Lake Agassiz more than 9,400 years ago.

21CR155 is a large site, and excavations were conducted at nine separate subareas within the site. At each of these locations, a backhoe dug a trench to just above the depth of the archaeological deposits, which were then excavated by hand from the floor of the trench. In most of the trenches, a sump ditch was also dug by backhoe around three sides of the trench. The ditch captured much of the water that flowed into the trench, which could then be pumped out using one, two, or sometimes even three pumps.

Over night the trenches would half fill with water, and in the deeper trenches an “early shift” would show up as much as three to four hours early to pump the trenches out before the regular work day began. Ironically, the water was actually helpful because it kept the soil in the bottom of the trench from freezing during the night.

Because the soils were usually clayey and waterlogged, most screening was done in water-filled stock tanks where the soil could be washed through the screens. As temperatures cooled from fall to winter, screening was moved into heated tents. This was especially helpful on days when the temperature was below zero. Using these



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## 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

If you receive your newsletter by email and do not know when you renewed your membership, please let me know.

Thanks so much. Anna Morrow, [anmorrow@q.com](mailto:anmorrow@q.com)

### Newsletter

Send your MAS news & notices to the Editor: Deborah Schoenholz  
[schoe030@umn.edu](mailto:schoe030@umn.edu)

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



## Dates To Remember

### Catch Rod Knapping

- July 5, 2014 11:00 – 2:00 Cannon Valley Trail Day, Welch Station
- Aug. 2, 2014 11:00 – 2:00 Cannon Valley Trail Day, Welch Station
- Sept. 6, 2014 11:00 – 2:00 Cannon Valley Trail Day, Welch Station
- Sept. 13-14, 2014 Minnesota Archeological Week Fair



### Archaeology for Kids One-Day Camp, Historic Fort Snelling, St. Paul MN

Dates: July 19, 2014, Aug. 2, 2014, Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fee: \$65/\$60 for MNHS members.

Reservations: required, register online

Grab a trowel and get ready for an archeological dig at Historic Fort Snelling. Campers will spend the day with archeologists and historians who will help them learn how to do archeological work including research, digging and sifting at a recreated dig site and working with scientific equipment in a lab. Space is limited to 10 per camp. For ages 10-14.

<http://events.mnhs.org/calendar/Results.cfm?CFID=37691023&CFTOKEN=c7bfd92a48b544-FC86A993-5056-9350-3A67E3CBF93A012F>

### 2014 Midwest Archaeological Conference, Champaign, Illinois

Dates: October 2-4, 2014

The MAC 2014 meetings will be held Thursday through Saturday evening at the Hilton Garden Inn just west of the University of Illinois campus. Room blocks are reserved at both the Hilton as well as Hawthorne Suites located across the street from the Hilton. The conference room rate is \$109/night at both locations. When making reservations, please use the Group code 'MAC14' to ensure you receive the conference rate. We are urging all conference attendees to reserve your hotel rooms as soon as possible since the U of I football schedule changed shortly after we had finalized the contract for the conference and this weekend is now a home football weekend. We will be sending out reminders periodically as we move closer to the conference dates. <http://midwestarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/upcoming-meetings>

<http://www.dulutharchaeologycenter.com/page8.html>

## Archaeology and Oil Go Boom in North Dakota

By Rob Holmes

Posted in *World*, June 14, 2014, 09:57 a.m.

[http://www.worldmag.com/2014/06/archaeology\\_and\\_oil\\_go\\_boom\\_in\\_north\\_dakota#.U58r6-kw6ew.facebook](http://www.worldmag.com/2014/06/archaeology_and_oil_go_boom_in_north_dakota#.U58r6-kw6ew.facebook)

Archaeologists are in high demand again thanks to the upsurge in oil exploration and related businesses in North Dakota.

Archaeology itself might just be the polar opposite of business: processes are slow, meticulous, and at times seem frivolous or quixotic. But archaeological experts are essential for estimating impact on sites of potential historical significance. Most federal drilling permits require such a survey: Before crews land permits to drill, build roads, or dig for construction, an archaeologist must survey and protect any artifacts buried near oil and natural gas deposits.

But the resulting job bonanza for U.S. archaeological experts also brings a tension: They are hired to find treasures of the past, but the companies paying them would prefer not to turn up anything that might pit their profits. If evidence of past human habitation or significant discoveries emerge, most oil companies change plans to avoid the hassles of drilling in a sensitive area.

Without the U.S. oil boom, a lot of young archaeologists would “never get the experience,” said Tim Dodson, who endured a long job search that eventually brought him to North Dakota. Like many U.S. archaeologists, he was highly educated but went nomadically from project to project across multiple countries, struggling to find well-paid work. After getting his master’s degree in maritime archaeology in 2009 from England’s Southampton University, he moved back in with his parents in St. Louis and worked as a bartender and bouncer while searching for a something in his specialty.

Seven months later, he landed a short job in the United Arab Emirates, then two others in Virginia and Colorado. Last year, he headed to Bismarck,



N.D., to join KLJ, an engineering and planning firm that also does what specialists call “cultural resource management.” Unlike his previous positions, oil business jobs are with larger companies and come with higher salaries.

Even before the Northern Plains oil boom, archaeologists made headlines in North Dakota with an almost complete fossil of a duck-billed dinosaur—skin, bones and tendons—all preserved in sandstone. Other regional excavations have revealed old trading posts, military forts, battlefields, forgotten settler cemeteries, abandoned homesteader farms, and even stone circles put in place by American Indians long ago, according to the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

With the increase in archaeological activity in the oil fields, North Dakota’s register of historic sites went from 846 in 2009 to nearly 2,260 in 2013, according to the state’s Historic Preservation Office.

“A lot of that wouldn’t be happening without the boom,” said archaeologist Richard Rothaus, who heads Trefoil Cultural and Environmental Heritage, a Minnesota-based archaeology firm.

Area firms now hiring archaeologists number around 50, nearly double that of a few years ago. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants’ Bismarck office has almost doubled each year for the past three years, according to Damita Engel, regional director of operations at the Golden, Colorado-based firm. In 2011, Metcalf had around 10 employees. Now it has 53.

## Visit the Office of the State Archaeologist



<http://www.osa.admin.state.mn.us>

### Legacy Amendment documents (Sample)

- 2010 archaeological reconnaissance survey of Olmsted County, Minnesota: Study funded by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, January 19, 2012. (7.02 M, .pdf)

- Age of Brainerd ceramics: Study funded by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, June 28, 2012. (3.05 M, .pdf)

- Archaeological prospection for precontact burial mounds using Light Detecting and Ranging (LiDAR) in Scott and Crow Wing Counties, Minnesota: Examines the feasibility of using publicly-funded LiDAR as a tool for identifying precontact earthworks, March 1, 2011. (10.26 M, .pdf)

- Archaeological survey of Steele County, Minnesota: Study funded by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, August 15, 2013. (7.5 M, .pdf)



### 21CR155 continued from page 3

methods, the crew excavated six of the nine subareas of the site and recovered materials spanning several thousand years. These included projectile points, a flintknapping feature with anvilstones, and a fire hearth, as well as a good sample of flintknapping debris, fire-cracked rock, and animal bone that appears to be mostly bison.

Recently the crew returned to the site to finish excavation of the final three subareas. This second round of work began in early April and finished in early May. During spring fieldwork the crew was heard to observe that on some days the temperature was on the order of 90 degrees warmer than it had been during the winter fieldwork.

At the final two subareas to be excavated, the archaeological deposits were buried by more than 2 meters of what appears to be post-settlement alluvium. This term refers to sediment that eroded from the landscape after the initial cutting of trees and plowing of fields as farming was established in the region during the nineteenth century. At 21CR155, this sediment washed down stream channels and gullies from the uplands, then was deposited in large, wedge-shaped fans that buried the older landscape. Thus excavation revealed a Late Woodland component less than 1,200 years old – complete with pottery, a notched point and a small triangular point – buried in a black muck soil more than 2 meters below the present surface. About 1 meter further down in this buried soil were other artifacts that could be as old as 8,000 years.

With field work done, the team will now start analysis of the materials that were recovered. This will include cleaning and accessioning artifacts, processing samples, identifying animal bone, obtaining additional radiocarbon dates and further studies that will help to sort out the chronology and stratigraphy of this unique site.



*Annual Meeting continued from page 1*

construction contractors and the entire town rallied around an Oneota village uncovered below Hwy 35 in 2012.

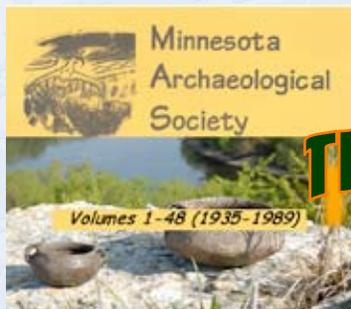
The theme for the evening was fantastic archaeology, and the dinner was capped with a 5-pound reconstruction of the Viking Runestone in chocolate marble cake, created by Board Member Debbie Schoenholz.



Photos courtesy of Pat Emerson and Don Wedll.

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Minnesota Archaeological Society  
Fort Snelling History Center  
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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.



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