

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.

Summer 2015

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1,000 Year-old Seeds Dug up at Prehistoric Indian Village Archeodome

Each year, something new is uncovered at the Thomsen Center Archeodome at the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village. But this year, the big find has been something small. Alan Outram, an associate professor of archaeological science at the University of Exeter in England, hold some of the findings, including a small corn cob, from the cache pits discovered earlier this summer at the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village [Credit: Marcus Traxler/Republic]



Alan Outram, an associate professor of archaeological science at the University of Exeter in England, hold some of the findings, including a small corn cob, from the cache pits discovered earlier this summer at the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village [Credit: Marcus Traxler/Republic]

discovered earlier this summer at the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village [Credit: Marcus Traxler/Republic] Researchers working the archaeological site along Lake Mitchell have discovered troves of small, charred kernels of corn and sunflowers, each only a few millimeters wide, that remain intact more than 1,000 years after people lived in the area along Firesteel Creek. Researchers have also found corn cobs, which they say show how much agriculture

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Archaeology at Swede Hollow

St. Paul's Swede Hollow Park will be getting an archaeological look this summer to better understand its role in the city's history, according to University of Minnesota graduate students Stefanie Kowalczyk and Kelly Wolf. The two are heading up the project.



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Summer 2015 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.

T.P.T.-M.A.S Collaboration:

I have been reporting over the past few newsletters on the progress of a T.P.T. (Twin Cities Public Television) and M.A.S. (Minnesota Archaeological Society) partnership in producing a one half hour video "Scientific Minnesota Archaeology." As I stated in the Spring Newsletter, the Video would be a 30-minute DVD, high definition video with closed-captions, about how scientific research is done using archaeological projects as examples. The video would be aired on T.P.T., would be promoted on the air and in their magazine, and could be further distributed to classrooms for educational purposes.

Board member Jeremy Nienow has been in regular contact with T.P.T's Tom Trow toward the completion of a Legacy Grant proposal for this project. Though things are not finalized as of yet, significant progress is being made and the preproposal is about to be submitted to the Grant Committee.

For further information, visit our web site at <http://www.mnarchsociety.org> - topic, Summer 2015 – Project Notice.

Treasurer:

Robert Hensley, former Audit Committee member, has agreed to assume the MAS Treasurer position. Welcome to the Board, Robert.

Audit Committee:

We are now without an Audit Committee, and our bylaws call for a minimum of a two-member committee consisting of non-Board members who will go over our Treasurer's work just one time at the end of the year.

Please, anyone interested in assuming the above duties, please contact me at the address posted below.

Rod Johnson: President

Nifty Quotes: "A Bad Attitude Is Like A Flat Tire. You Can't Go Anywhere Till You Change It".
(Unknown)

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

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1,000 Year-old Seeds

has changed, and affirms that people of the region had a diverse diet. The findings are significant for those investing their time and resources into the Mitchell site. Alan Outram, who is in his 12th year bringing students from the University of Exeter, in England, to partner with Augustana College students, said the team has found as much carbonized plant matter in the last two weeks than from the last 11 years. "Of course, it's important to this area," he said. "The thing is, this is an agricultural area and this is the history of that agriculture." Augustana College Professor of Archaeology Adrien Hannus, who serves as the project director at the site, said when the archeodome was being built and finished in 1999, they got an idea of where the best deposits would be. That hinted to Hannus that they would get a good look at the way of life for the American Indians who settled in the area. "It showed at the time that there was probably 12 feet there, and we're really just scratching the surface," Hannus said. "This village isn't the origin of prehistoric agriculture, but it is one of the key sites in understanding what was done here." The discovery was made through cache pits, which were large holes used to store things like food and tools. When the people who used them discovered they were not ideal for keeping food, they turned them into trash receptacles. In those pits, archaeological students have also found broken pottery pieces and other items. In this part of the country, Hannus said, the prehistoric pits would have a wide opening and then would belly out at the bottom, sometimes 4 to 5 feet deep. They would be capped with clay and ash, because insects such as beetles can't survive climbing through ash, according to researchers. Until this year, Thomsen Center Archeodome researchers had never found a cache pit with an unbroken clay and ash cap. A charred sunflower seed and a charred corn kernel were displayed this week at the Thomsen Archeodome lab at the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village. The charred pieces are believed to be at least 1,000 years old [Credit: Marcus Traxler/Republic] As for the corn findings, the longest cobs are about the size of an adult finger. Hannus said the people of that time were either roasting or boiling the entire cob, and Outram said they show the growth of corn crops since that time. "They tell us a lot about these strains of plants have changed over time," he said. "They're a lot smaller. You can see that the corn kernels are about the same size, but the cobs were a lot smaller and there were a lot fewer kernels on the cobs." The charring helped to preserve the seeds, Outram said. Otherwise, that seed might have grown out of the ground over time. "For a 1,000-year-old seed, they're very nicely preserved," he said. "But they're only preserved because they're charred." Hannus said the findings reiterate that the American Indians of the area—about 200 to 250 of them at the site at any one time—had a complex diet and weren't exactly a primitive people. "I guess the real positive story is that we know this was a successful village of farmers, hunters, foragers;



A charred sunflower seed and a charred corn kernel were displayed this week at the Thomsen Archeodome lab at the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village. The charred pieces are believed to be at least 1,000 years old [Credit: Marcus Traxler/Republic]

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Minnesota Archaeological Society

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.

•Getting the newsletter by snail mail or by e-mail? Prefer the other? Let me know.

Thanks so much. Anna Morrow, amorrow@q.com

Send your MAS news & notices to the Editor: Deborah Schoenholz



Dates To Remember

Legacy Series, sponsored by Minnesota Power

Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center, Boulder Lake Reservoir;
 anyone who wants directions please contact Dan Wendt, wendt001@gmail.com

Sunday, August 2, 1-3 pm: *Archaeology of Island Lake and Boulder Lake Reservoirs*

Sunday, September 13, 1-3 pm: *Archaeology of Fish Lake and Wild Rice Lake Reservoirs*

These are VERY informal; anyone wishing to jump in with relevant info is welcome. If you have artifacts that you would like identified, please bring them!! Mark your calendars and plan on coming! Send any questions or topics to include to Dan Wendt as soon as possible. Hope to see you there!

Aug. 1, 2015, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Archaeology for Kids One-Day Camp

Historic Fort Snelling, St. Paul MN

Fee: \$65/\$60 for MNHS members.

Reservations: required, call 651-259-3015 or register online

Tuesday, August 4: Archaeology Day Camp, Stearns County Museum.

To register or for more information call Nicole at (320) 253-8424

Conferences

August 7-8, 3-9 pm.: Copper and Culture: A Conference on Prehistoric Metalworking in the Lake Superior Region.

Houghton, MI. Houghton High School Auditorium, 1603 Gundlach Road 49931

Oct. 9-10: 11th Annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference.

Mill City Museum, Minneapolis



11th Annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference

October 9-10, 2015

A 2-day conference organized by:

Rob Mann (St. Cloud State University)

Katherine Hayes (The University of Minnesota)

Bruce Koenen (Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist)

Jeremy Nienow (Nienow Cultural Consultants LLC)

We are pleased to announce that the 11th Annual Midwestern Historical Archaeology Conference will be held October 9-10, 2015 at the Mill City Museum (<http://www.millcitymuseum.org/>) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Built in the ruins of the Washburn "A" Mill next to Mill Ruins Park on the banks of the Mississippi River, the Mill City Museum focuses on the founding and growth of Minneapolis, especially flour milling and the other industries that used water power from Saint Anthony Falls. The mill complex, dating from the 1870s, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is part of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District and within the National Park Service's Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

Conference Themes:

Immigration/labor.

Contemporary heritage representations.

Rivers as agents.

Friday:

Friday Evening-Reception at the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis will be an informal get together so that folks can mingle and catch up in a relaxed, but still semi-professional venue. Dr. Paul Shackel (University of Maryland) will be the keynote speaker.

Saturday:

Morning Session-will consist of a series of Ignite Talks (see <http://igniteshow.com/howto>).

Afternoon Session-Knowledge Cafés - Ignite Talk speakers each lead a series of roundtable discussions with audience members. At set intervals each "pod" of audience members will rotate to another roundtable.

Afternoon Session-Concurrent Poster Session.

For more information contact: Rob Mann at rmann@stcloudstate.edu or 320-308-4181.

Archaeology Day Camp at the Stearns County Museum

Tuesday, August 4

9am to 5pm
 Ages 7-12 Cost \$25
 Limit: 40

- Archaeological Dig
- Mapping Artifacts
- Hands-on Projects
- Learn the Secrets of Soil
 - Nature Hike
 - Museum Tour
 - Geocaching

To register or for more information call Nicole at (320) 253-8424





International Archaeology Day is held each year on the third Saturday of October.

International Archaeology Day is a celebration of archaeology and the thrill of discovery. Every October the AIA and archaeological organizations across the United States, Canada, and abroad present archaeological programs and activities for people of all ages and interests. Whether it is a family-friendly archaeology fair, a guided tour of a local archaeological site, a simulated dig, a lecture or a classroom visit from an archaeologist, the interactive, hands-on International Archaeology Day programs provide the chance to indulge your inner Indiana Jones.

Join us for International Archaeology Day!

- Be a Sponsor
- Organize an Event
- Join the Translation Team
- Promote International Archaeology Day

For further information, go to

<https://www.archaeological.org/archaeologyday/join>



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1,000 Year-old Seeds

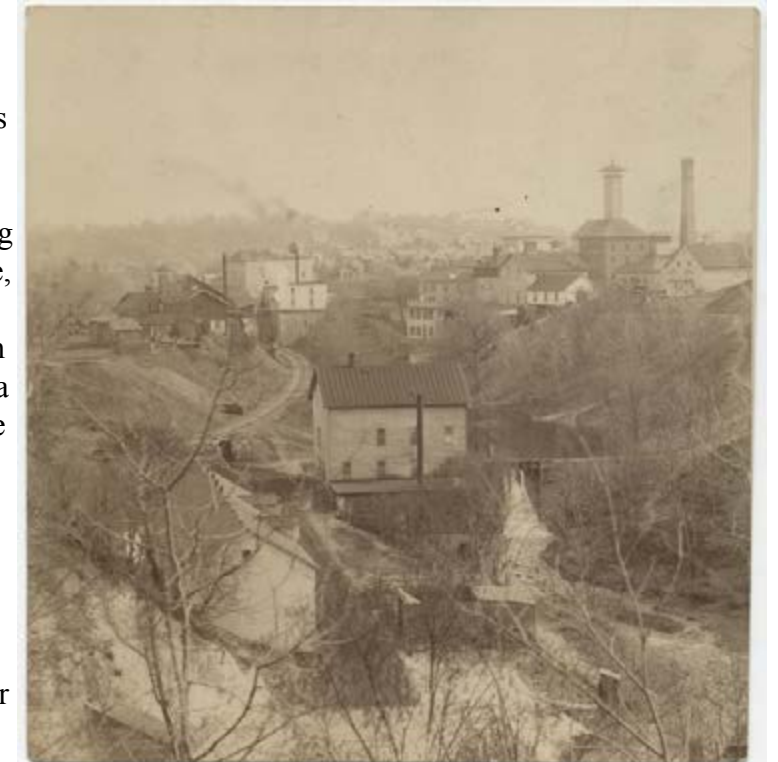
they collected fish and wildlife; they hunted bison and deer and smaller mammals," he said. "This wasn't a starvation story here. It's a story about a very vital, alive group of people who lived here." Hannus has worked at the site for last 31 years, and says the parallels with modern South Dakota are still evident. "I keep trying to convince people that are visiting, this is not some kind of bizarre, alien culture," he said. "This isn't something that people should not be able to relate to. You've got small, rural towns in South Dakota right now, today, that are functioning not much differently than the people did then." Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village Executive Director Cindy Gregg agreed with the researchers, saying if the average person was dropped in the Amazon, "they would be considered primitive, too," she said. The 18 students, who are from the U.S., England, Ireland, Russia and Spain, are about 60 percent complete with their time at the site this year and will be in Mitchell through July 16. The discoveries come on the cusp of the village's biggest event of the year, Archaeology Awareness Days, which is this Saturday and Sunday. Primitive technologists from around the country will be here and demonstrating the skills used more than 1,000 years ago There will also be summer Lakota Games and cultural programs. "We've had our most productive dig season in the 12 years we've been doing this," Gregg said. "This is an exciting time for us." Author: Marcus Traxler | Source: The Daily Republic [July 08, 2015]

Swede Hollow continued from page 1

Swede Hollow, located in East Saint Paul, was originally home to Swedish immigrants who lived in former fur trader cabins in the 1850s. They called it Svenska Dalen, or Swedish Dale, and the name stuck. By the 1900s the population grew to about 1,000 people, and Italian immigrants began replacing the Swedes.

When the Italians and Swedes eventually moved out, Mexican migrant workers settled in the Hollow in the 1930s. By 1956, there were 16 families remaining in the Hollow when the City of Saint Paul reviewed the area as part of Urban Renewal. During the review, the city found hazardous living conditions including a contaminated water source, and relocated the residents. According to Wolf, the area was allowed to grow wild and became an unofficial dumping ground until the 1970s when a joint effort with the Saint Paul Garden Club made the area into the park we know today.

"The public will be invited to visit the project," Kowalczyk says, which is expected to start July 31. Visitors will be encouraged to ask questions and learn about the history of Swede Hollow and the archaeology process. There are also volunteer opportunities available. For more information go to www.SwedeHollowArchaeology.wordpress.com, or contact Kowalczyk at kowal169@umn.edu and Wolf at wolfx609@umn.edu.



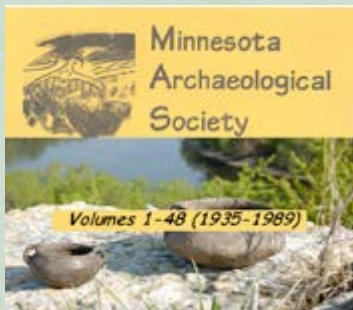
Swede Hollow 1885, a mill on Phalen Creek and Hamm's in the background. From Swede Hollow Archaeology Project Facebook Page, The Minnesota Historical Society.



Swede Hollow 1912. Facing north from E 7th Street. From Swede Hollow Archaeology Project Facebook Page, The Minnesota Historical Society.

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