

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 2016



SAVE THE DATE!

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Redwing archaeologist
Ron Schirmer
will be delighting diners at the
2016 Annual Dinner Meeting on
Friday, April 22.



**“Well, we dug it all up...
now what?”**

Archaeological repositories in Minnesota house uncounted millions of artifacts, excavation notes and photographs, etc., attesting to more than 12,000 years of human life here. Yet most of these data remain tucked away and largely inaccessible to professionals and the interested public. With modern technology we can solve this problem and create a new format for improving our understanding of the state's archaeology: the Minnesota Archeology Integrated Database (MAID).

MAS Board Member Emeritus Rhoda Gilman Voted Life Member

RHODA GILMAN is a native of Seattle. She holds a BA from U Washington (1948) and an MA from Bryn Mawr College (1951). Before coming to Minnesota she worked for the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia and, with her husband, directed a Quaker work camp in Mexico. In 1958 she began a 34-year career with the Minnesota Historical Society during which she served as an editor, researcher, and administrator.



Rhoda was a board member and officer of the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology and also served on the board of the Minnesota Archaeological Society for many years. She has been active politically, helping

Gilman continued on page 5

Winter 2016 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.

Fall Events:

Two archaeology events open to public viewing were held during the month of September. Minnesota Archaeology Week, Archaeology Fair, September 13, and Kathio State Park Archaeology Day, September 26. Both events were considered a great success.

Board Changes:

Over the several months since the last newsletter, several changes have been made to the Board. First, our Treasurer, Robert Hensley, has accepted a promotion and transfer to Denver, Colorado and has resigned to move from the Twin Cities in February. Our many thanks to Robert, who served his year in office with distinction by updating our financials to electronic status. The Board, at discussing a replacement for the future, agreed to ask recently recruited Audit Committee Member Bob Suchanek to fill the position; Bob has agreed and been voted to membership on the Board as our new Treasurer. Welcome, Bob! Which of course, leaves us once again with an empty Audit Committee, which I here advertise to the membership once more: anyone interested in auditing MAS books once a year (they are very small books) please contact me. The 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.

We have also voted Amy Ollila, Archaeological Field Technician at the Minnesota Historical Society, to a seat on the Board. Welcome Amy!

Annual Meeting and Elections:

Our Annual Dinner Meeting will be held this year on Friday, April 22, 2016, again at Hamline University. You will receive a mailing with full details closer to the date. This is an election year and will be the last election over which I will preside, as I am stepping down from the position of President of the Society now and for the future. I have had many good years representing MAS but, after six terms in a row, I believe it is time to bow out. We will be devising a slate of officers for present members to vote on at this meeting, so if you want to nominate anyone for any of the two-year positions President, Vice President, or Secretary, please do let me know as soon as possible and they will appear on the voting roster. This year, as we have just nominated and obtained a new Treasurer, that position will not stand for election.

Rod Johnson: President

Nifty Quotes: "Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller." (Unknown)

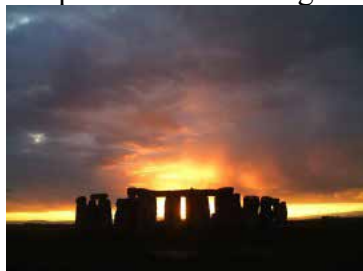
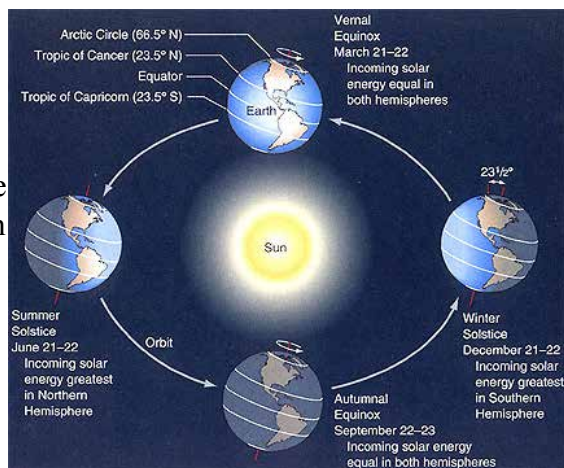
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Welcoming the Winter Solstice

from Indian Country Today Media Network, 2011
<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2011/12/20/welcoming-winter-solstice-68662>
ICTMN Staff

The winter solstice has once again come and gone. In scientific terms, the winter solstice occurs at the precise moment when the axial tilt of earth's polar hemisphere is the farthest away from the sun. That moment arrives, usually on December 22, when the North Pole is tilted 23.5 degrees away from the sun, bringing about the shortest day and the longest night of the year. The winter solstice, by definition, is a term used to describe this single moment when the Earth's maximum axial tilt to the sun is 23°23'.

In cultural terms, the winter solstice has been a special moment that was recognized as far back as Neolithic times. These astronomical events in ancient times impacted the sowing of crops, mating of animals, and handling of winter reserves between harvests. The winter solstice was an important part of many indigenous cultures spiritual beliefs, a time of cosmic change and renewal, as well as a time where indigenous communities faced existential questions. Surviving winter was far from guaranteed for those in colder climates, and celebrations that took place during the winter solstice were epic. For example, cattle were slaughtered (they couldn't be kept alive over winter) and so it was often the only time an indigenous community could enjoy fresh meat. Because the winter solstice is



Stonehenge during winter solstice

Solstice continued on page 5



Kathio Archaeology Day

Sponsored by MNDNR Parks & Trails, Minnesota Archaeological Society & St. Cloud State University
Report by Jim Cummings

We had excellent weather, and excellent attendance for Archaeology Day at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. It was the third most heavily attended Archaeology Day since we started the event. Attendance is estimated at 850 people. As usual, Rod Johnson did an excellent job flint knapping and representing MAS.



Jake Foss also represented MAS very well with a large MAS table display, set up right next to MHS and OAS.

Added this year were learning stations on maple sugar harvest/processing by Russ Boyd and traditional wild rice harvest by the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Kathio summer intern Talisha Zimmerman.

Our hard-working volunteer presenters also included Ray Nelson, Amy Flatten, Grant Goltz, Erin Lazorik, and Maritime Heritage Minnesota.



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, anmorrow@q.com

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



Dates To Remember



Saturday, March 5, 10 AM–5 PM, Valley View Mall, La Crosse: *Artifact Show.* Local collectors will display their personal collections, and MVAC staff will bring artifacts recovered from local excavations. Archaeologists will be on hand to answer questions.

Bring in your own artifacts for help in their identification. Call MVAC at 608.785.8454 or e-mail Jean Dowiasch (jdowiasch@uwlax.edu) if you would like to display your artifacts

March 21, 7 pm, Superior Public Library: *FDR's Woodland Caribou Reintroduction in Northwest Minnesota.* Bill Berg, MN DNR (218-624-5489 or archcenter@aol.com for more information) Northern Lakes Archaeological Society (<http://www.dulutharchaeologycenter.com>)

April 18, 7 pm, Superior Public Library: *Northern Neighbors: Settlement of the 1200 Square Mile Area North of the Boundary Waters.* Harold Alanen, Avocational Archaeologist (218-624-5489 or archcenter@aol.com for more information) Northern Lakes Archaeological Society (<http://www.dulutharchaeologycenter.com>)

Tuesday, April 26, 7 PM, Graff Main Hall, Auditorium, UWL: *Digging Up the Facts: Archaeology, Crime Fiction, and Science.* Mary Anna Evans, Archaeology often serves as a backdrop for mystery novels and crime fiction, and the most successful examples are steeped in realism and authenticity. Join crime novelist Mary Anna Evans as she discusses her award-winning Faye Longchamp archaeological mystery series, focusing on the importance of facts in writing an entertaining story. Evans is an assistant professor of professional writing at the University of Oklahoma.

May 16, 7 pm, Superior Public Library: *Who Were the Ancient Copper Miners of Isle Royale?* Randy Beebe, Wolfhead Research Logistics (218-624-5489 or archcenter@aol.com for more information) Northern Lakes Archaeological Society (<http://www.dulutharchaeologycenter.com>)



**JEFFREY PAUL
TORDOFF
1947 - 2015**

Archaeologist,
Researcher,
Collections Manager,
Outdoor Writer,
Acoustic Musician:

Jeff's vivid presence will
be forever missed;
an empty chair in many
fond circles.

Solstice continued from page 3

also an event that marks the return of the sun's presence in the sky, it has been connected with renewal, birth, sun gods, and life-death-rebirth deities.

The winter solstice's importance to ancient cultures is most famously on display in the Neolithic and Bronze Age sites of Stonehenge, in England, and Newgrange, in Ireland.

These monuments contain primary axes that appear to have been carefully aligned on a sight-line which points to two key moments during the winter solstice. Stonehenge, believed to have been built between 3000 BC and 2000BC, is one of the most recognizable archaeological sites on the planet.

At Newgrange in eastern Ireland, which is older than Stonehenge, built around 3200 BC, the connection to the winter solstice is even more striking. This large mound structure and passage tomb, with grass growing on top, has a room within it that floods with light as the sun rises on the winter solstice. This alignment was no accident, with archaeologists and religious scholars alike agreeing that this site, which was once sealed and closed for several millennia, was a place of great import to its builders and the indigenous cultures who worshipped there.



Solstice continued on page 6

Rhoda Gilman Continued

to found the Green Party of Minnesota and serving as its candidate for lieutenant governor in 2002. In 2003 she was named a Founding Feminist by the Minnesota Women's Political Caucus, and in 2008 she and her daughter, Betsy Raasch-Gilman, were both honored by the Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation for their work toward peace and social justice. In 2014, MAS awarded her the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Among her fields of special interest have been American Indians and the North American fur trade.

Publications:

THE STORY OF MINNESOTA'S PAST (1989), HENRY HASTINGS SIBLEY: DIVIDED HEART (2004), and STAND UP! THE STORY OF MINNESOTA'S PROTEST TRADITION (2012). Her many articles have appeared in publications that include MINNESOTA HISTORY, THE MINNESOTA ARCHAEOLOGIST, THE SMITHSONIAN JOURNAL OF HISTORY, JOURNAL OF THE WEST, THE WISCONSIN MAGAZINE OF HISTORY, DAEDALUS, and GREEN HORIZON.

**2016 LAKE SUPERIOR BASIN
WORKSHOP**

March 18 (Friday) & 19 (Saturday)
LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO, CANADA
Room BB2002, Department of Anthropology,
Friday 12-5 pm and Saturday 9am -5 pm

For more information: SCOTT HAMILTON
shamilto@lakeheadu.ca or 807-343-8742
To get on email list: SUSAN MULHOLLAND
suemulholland@aol.com

The workshop is free and open to the public.
Displays of archaeological materials;
Discussion and good times!

GENERAL EXHIBITION:
**BRING ARTIFACTS TO SHARE AND DISCUSS,
LITHIC EXCHANGE IS WELCOMED!!**
For display case or table space:
Clarence Surette at clsurett@lakeheadu.ca

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
FRIDAY MARCH 18, 7 PM, ROOM BB0017

**DEVELOPING A SORTABLE DATABASE FOR
POTTERY RIMSHERDS**

Here in North America there is evidence of celebration and worship of the winter solstice, at places like Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, the site of an ancient indigenous city from 600-1400 AD. The site contained 120 earthwork mounds built over an area of roughly six square miles (80 remain) and is the largest archaeological site left by the Mississippian culture, which had complex and advanced societies all across the Midwest and eastern North America. Woodhenge, a circle of posts within this ancient city-structure, consisted of a circle of posts that were used to make astronomical sightings. Archaeologists discovered Woodhenge and found that the placement of the posts marked both the solstices and equinoxes. Further analytical work showed that the placement of these posts was by design, with such artifacts as a beaker found near the winter solstice post that bore a circle and cross symbol which symbolized the Earth and four cardinal directions.



The Great Serpent Mound in Peebles, Ohio

In rural Peebles, Ohio, the Great Serpent Mound, believed to have been built by the Fort Ancient people between 1000 and 1550 AD, slithers away from the winter solstice. The Great Serpent Mound is possibly the best-known serpent effigy in North America, stretching out nearly a quarter of a mile in the unmistakable form of a uncoiling serpent. The serpent's head is aligned to the sunset during the summer solstice, the coils and tail are believed to point to the sunrise on the days of the winter solstice and the equinoxes.

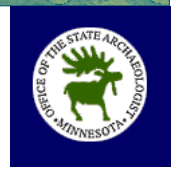
During the period between 1150 AD and 1375 AD, a still unexplainable series of mounds were built by the ancestors of the Creek Indians in Georgia, western North Carolina and the eastern edge of Alabama. These five-sided mounds are unique to the region, and were “perfectly arranged on the apexes of a triangular matrix, stretching for several hundred miles,” according to an article by Richard Thornton, part of an alliance of Muskogean scholars. “One leg of the isosceles triangles was true north-south. Another leg was true east-west. The hypotenuse was the angle of the solar azimuth at sunset on the winter solstice. How the accurate surveying of such long distances was accomplished by the indigenous people of the region has never been explained,” he wrote.

Indian Mounds across the country, from Spiro Mounds in Oklahoma to Town Creek Indian Mound in North Carolina, have connections to the winter solstice. Winter solstice for the Maya of South America is a hugely important time for rebirth, reflection, and renewal as the end of one cosmic cycle arrives with the beginning of a new cycle. Winter solstice ceremonies and celebrations have been an important component of Central and South American indigenous communities for many millennia, from El Salvador and Guatemala to Belize and Peru.

In Machu Picchu, there is a large column of stone called an Intihuatana, which translates to “hitching post of the sun,” with a ceremony that takes place each June 24 in Sacsayhuamán during the Peruvian winter solstice. There are more celebrations during the southern hemispheres winter solstice in June in places like Mapuche, in Southern Chile.



Scott Anfinson, State Archaeologist since 2005, Retiring



The Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) acts as the chief public contact for archaeology in Minnesota. OSA serves Minnesota's government entities, professional archaeologists, and citizens across a wide range of duties designed and defined in law to protect Minnesota's cultural resources and make knowledge of them available to researchers, educators, and the public. All who have worked with Scott Anfinson know him to have been a faithful and true steward of our cultural, historic, and prehistoric legacy.

Scott Anfinson was first appointed acting state archaeologist in mid-August 2005 and state archaeologist in January 2006. He grew up in the western Minnesota town of Benson before earning a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota (1972), a Master of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Nebraska (1977), and a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota (1987). He began work at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) directing the Municipal-County Highway Archaeological Survey. In 1990, he was appointed the archaeologist for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at MHS.

Although primarily a prehistoric archaeologist, Scott has extensive experience with urban archaeology and shipwreck archaeology. He teaches Heritage Management and Minnesota Archaeology courses in the Anthropology Department at the University of Minnesota. His publications include *A Handbook of Minnesota Prehistoric Ceramics* (1978), *Archaeology of the Central Minneapolis Riverfront* (1989, 1990), *Archaeological and Historical Studies of Minnesota's Lake Superior Shipwrecks* (1993), *Southwestern Minnesota Archaeology: 12,000 Years in the Prairie Lake Region* (1997), and the *State Archaeologist's Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota* (2011).

Vermilion State Park

Minnesota's newest state park is still under development, and public access and recreation opportunities are currently very limited. The park will eventually be home to unique camping opportunities, including camper cabins, boat-in campsites, traditional campsites, and group camping, as well as a wide range of interpretive programs offered throughout the year. See more at <http://www.lakevermilionchamber.com/#!/lake-vermilion-state-park/c23cr>.

Soudan Underground Mine State Park and Proposed Lake Vermilion State Park

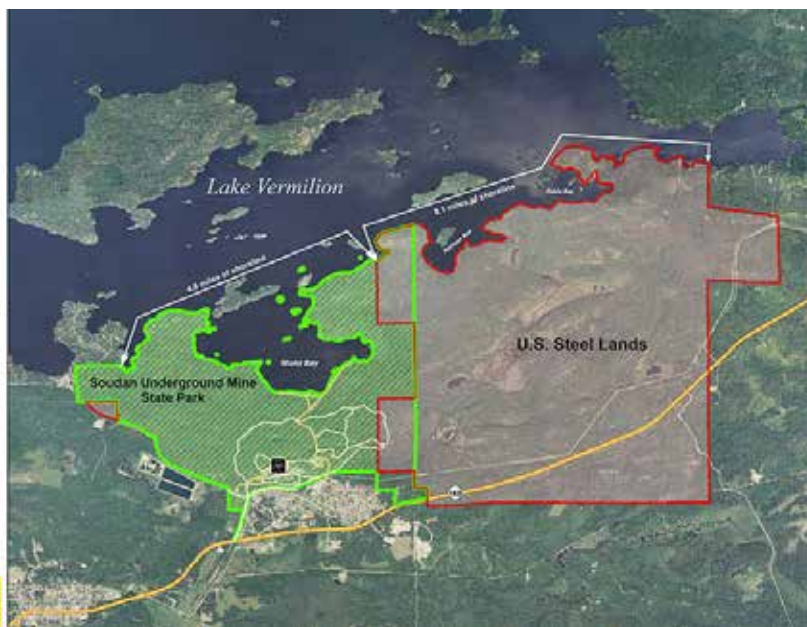
MAP LEGEND

- Visitor Center
- State Park Roads
- State Park Hiking Trails
- Soudan Underground Mine Statutory Boundary
- Soudan Underground Mine Ownership
- U.S. Steel Lands

The boundary lines shown on this map are intended to show general location and are not intended to be used for legal purposes. The boundary locations are not necessarily the result of a certified survey.

Locator Map

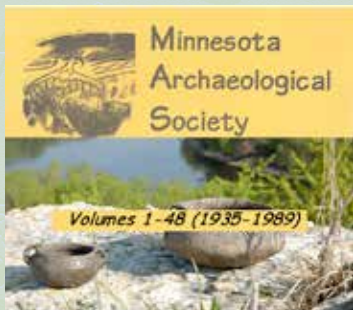
Soudan Underground Mine



camper cabins, boat-in campsites, traditional campsites, and group camping, as well as a wide range of interpretive programs offered throughout the year. See more at <http://www.lakevermilionchamber.com/#!/lake-vermilion-state-park/c23cr>.

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