

Minnesota Archaeological Society

Spring (January—March) 2017

Published Quarterly



MAS Annual Meeting and Dinner

Friday, April 21, 2017

6:30-10:00pm

Anderson Center #305,
Hamline University, Saint Paul



The Minnesota Archaeological Society will be holding its annual meeting/dinner on April 21, 2017. The event is tentatively scheduled from 6:30-10pm at Hamline University (Anderson Center #305). Seth DePasqual, Cultural Resources Manager of Isle Royale National Park, will present recent findings on the archaeology of the island. *A separate invitation will be mailed/emailed to MAS members closer to the date of the event when details are finalized.*



Presentation Abstract:

Since 2012, the cultural resource program at Isle Royale National Park has focused on the island's Nipissing beach, a relict Lake Superior shoreline dating to approximately 5,000 BP. The Nipissing is a contemporary of Archaic-period cultures, of which relatively little is known when compared with more recent precontact cultures on Isle Royale. The inaugural 2012 survey season devoted itself to site discovery with promising results. Subsequent surveys and excavations allowed researchers to refine their methods and strategy. In 2015, the survey broadened its coverage to include McCargoe Cove, the renowned gateway to Isle Royale among regional Ojibwe and the location of one of America's largest precontact copper mines. The findings that year informed subsequent excavation work performed in 2016, which yielded many interesting clues to lifeways among early island visitors. This presentation will review the McCargoe Cove work placing it in context with previous surveys island-wide.



Seth DePasqual is the Cultural Resources Manager for Isle Royale National Park and has been conducting field work there since 2009. Formally trained as an archaeologist, he has studied the past in locations across America and in Norway. Citing the island's rich inventory of precontact and historic endeavors, Seth considers Isle Royale to be a dream medium for archaeological research.

Letter from the President

By Dan Wendt

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.

Winter and Spring Events: Surprisingly winter has become a very active time for archaeology in Minnesota. Our professional archaeologist board members have come in from the field to avoid frostbite. We have planned a season of interaction and outreach.

We are excited to report that we received a Minnesota Legacy Grant to support our project entitled “Critical Thinking and Science in Minnesota Archaeology”. Our intent is to develop programming that highlights how the scientific process is used in Minnesota archaeology. We are honored to partner with Twin Cities Public Television on the script and video production. Jeremy Neinow will serve as the Project Manager.

The Council for Minnesota Archaeology (CMA) will have its biennial meeting on February 24 and 25 at Hamline University. The Minnesota Archaeological Society, MAS, will sponsor a symposium on “Critical Thinking and Science in Archaeology.” We will also sponsor a social hour at the end of the day on Friday. Our Annual Dinner Meeting will be held at Hamline University on April 21st. Our guest speaker will be Seth DePasqual who is the Isle Royale National Park Cultural Resources Manager. Since 2012, the cultural resource program at Isle Royale has focused on the island’s Nipissing beach, a relict Lake Superior shoreline dating to approximately 5,000 BP. The Nipissing beach was contemporaneous with Archaic period cultures, who may have been involved in copper mining and tool manufacturing on Isle Royale.

The Lake Superior Basin Workshop will be held March 17 and 18 at Grand Portage National Monument. The Workshop is a unique opportunity for archaeologists in Canada and the U. S. to meet and discuss past cultures who recognized no border.

On March 25th The Gopher State Archaeological Society will meet at the Steele County Historical Society in Owatonna. Local artifacts will be displayed and there will be lots of opportunity for sharing information on Minnesota archaeology.

Board Changes: We have had some changes to the Minnesota Archaeological Society Board since our Annual Meeting last spring. We will use this year’s annual meeting to affirm the interim appointments of LeRoy Gonsior to Vice President and Rod Johnson to Treasurer.

MAS Goals: The Board has set goals for the coming year of catching up on our *Minnesota Archaeologist* publication schedule, making better use of our web and Facebook sites, planning a calendar of outreach opportunities, and expanding membership.

MAS Board

Officers

Dan Wendt, President
 LeRoy Gonsior, Vice
 President
 Pat Emerson, Secretary
 Rod Johnson, Treasurer
 Jake and Nicole Foss,
 Newsletter Editors



Board Members

Kent Bakken, Minnesota
 Archaeologist Managing
 Editor
 Jim Cummings
 Chuck Diesen
 Jake Foss
 Erin Fallon
 Ron Miles
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 Amy Ollila
 Deborah Pommer
 Bob Suchanek

Upcoming Events

Snowshoeing into the Past

February 11, 2017, 1—2:30pm, Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park

After an indoor look at ancient artifacts, an archaeologist will lead a snowshoe trek to Petaga Point where a village from the 1600s and a 3,000-year-old campsite were located. Snowshoes and instructions are provided. Registration is required and is limited to the first 25 people. To register, call 320-532-3269 and leave your name, phone number and number of people attending. In case of poor snow conditions, we will walk to the sites. Meet at the Interpretive Center.

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/mille_lacs_kathio/index.html

Cryogenic Knap-In

February 17th through 19th, 10am—6pm at the Hairy Mosquito Trading Company, Milaca, Minnesota.

The Cryogenic Knap-In will be held at the Hairy Mosquito Trading Company in Milaca, Minnesota. Displays, demonstrations, and hands-on learning opportunities for those interested in the ancient craft of flintknapping.

<http://www.hairymosquito.com/>

Council for Minnesota Archaeology Symposium

February 24th and 25th, 2017, 9am—5pm. Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota. *See next page for details.*

Lake Superior Basin Workshop

March 17th and 18th, 2017, 10am—5pm, Grand Portage National Monument, Grand Portage, Minnesota. The Grand Portage National Monument will be hosting the Lake Superior Basin Workshop at its Heritage Center (visitor center). There will be displays and poster presentations, with plenty of opportunities to interact with other archaeologists and people interested in the study of the past. The event is from 10am to 5pm on both days.

<https://www.nps.gov/grpo/index.htm>

Gopher State Annual Artifact Show

March 25th, 2017, 9am—3pm at the Steele County History Center, Owatonna, Minnesota. The Gopher State Annual Artifact Show will be held at the Steele County History Center.

Play. Tinker. Make.

April 6th, 2017, 6—10pm. Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota. The Minnesota Archaeological Society will be participating in the Science Museum of Minnesota's Social Science night, "Play. Tinker. Make". This event is a 21+ evening at the Science Museum that explores the topic of invention with presentations, special programs and a night of exploring the museum. Grab a drink and find your way to MAS's table to do some hands-on creation with archaeological tools. <https://www.smm.org/>

MAS Annual Meeting/Dinner

April 21, 2017, 6:30—10pm. Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota. *See front page of newsletter for details.*



Share your thoughts on Minnesota archaeology and find out what is happening right now across the state and region on our page.

Council for Minnesota Archaeology Symposium

Current Research in Upper Midwest Archaeology

February 24th and 25th, 2017

9:00am—5:00pm

Anderson Center # 304 and #305

Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota



The Council from Minnesota Archaeology will be holding a two day symposium on February 24th and 25th, 2017, at Hamline University (Anderson Center #304 and #305). Papers and posters on current archaeological research in the Upper Midwest will be presented both days, from 9am to 5pm.

CMA website: <https://mnarchaeology.wordpress.com/>

CMA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CouncilforMinnesotaArchaeology/>



Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program *by Thor Olmanson*

The Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program is an income-generating cultural resources management (CRM) program owned by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO). We conduct archaeological investigations under the requirements of sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, including all phases of archaeological research, from Phase I surveys (reconnaissance) to Phase II (site evaluation) and Phase III (data recovery) excavations. Initially organized in the late 1980s as a sub-contracted firm, Heritage Sites was formally established in 1992 as a program within the LLBO Division of Resource Management.

While we conduct all cultural resource surveys for internal LLBO projects, the majority of our funding is acquired through contracts with external clients. We have a Participating Agreement with the Chippewa National Forest to conduct the majority of Phase I archaeological reconnaissance surveys within their boundaries. In addition to our extensive work within the Reservation and the Chippewa National Forest, we have performed archaeological research services for numerous other clients, which include the Indian Health Service, the Federal Highway Administration, MnDOT, Minnesota Army National Guard, Beltrami County, Cass County, Itasca County, Potlatch Corporation, pipeline and utility companies, various engineering and construction firms, private landowners, and developers. In an average year, we survey over 6,000 acres and document 30-50 archaeological sites.

Program Director Thor Olmanson and Field Directors Colleen Wells and Matt Mattson all possess Master of Science degrees in Archaeology/Anthropology, and have over 90 years of combined experience working in 15

states and abroad. Our experience has focused upon CRM, archaeology, faunal analysis, biological archaeology, geoarchaeology, geomorphology, paleoecology, ethnohistory, cemetery documentation, and non-invasive field research using a magnetometer. In addition to field research, our program has conducted experimental archaeology workshops related to traditional technologies, such as flint knapping, ceramics, copper working, and wood and bone tool making.

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Heritage Sites excavation.



Heritage Sites staff Scott Kingbird (right), Matt Mattson (second from right) and others excavating an archaeological site near the Mississippi Headwaters.

Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program *continued*

The majority of our field staff is composed of Leech Lake Band members and Ojibwe tribal affiliates who have many years of survey and excavation experience in the Mississippi Headwaters region. At this time, our office employs four year-round staff, consisting of the Program Director, two Field Directors, an Office Manager, and varying numbers of seasonal field staff. We also provide training for Leech Lake Youth Works Program participants and interns from the Leech Lake Tribal College STEM Program each year. Public outreach activities include presenting to local schools, colleges, and other groups.

We work closely with the Leech Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to identify, protect, and preserve cultural resources. In addition to archaeological research, we also conduct historical research and work to identify and preserve Traditional Cultural Properties. Through close interaction with the THPO, the SHPO, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, and other governmental entities, we work to protect areas of cultural significance for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and other cultural groups.



Heritage Sites program staff poses in front of the remains of a newly discovered historic log cabin near the Mississippi Headwaters. From left: Jerrin Wilson, Brett Reyes, William Kingbird (kneeling), Duane Fisher, Scott Whitebird, and Francis Guinn. Photos courtesy of Leech Lake Heritage Sites Program and Thor Olmanson.

Tom Sanders Retirement

In October, Tom Sanders retired after 21 years as Site Manager of Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site, one of the premier rock art sites in the mid-continent. During his time at Jeffers, Tom instituted new policies for management, conservation and interpretation. Many policies and practices grew out of in-depth consultation with American Indian advisors from a number of tribes. His work increased public awareness of the site, ensured its long-term sustainability and enhanced our understanding of the complex stories told by the carvings at Jeffers. In retirement, Tom plans to finish writing a book about the site and will continue his collaborative research on the archaeology of the Red Rock Ridge.



Tom Sanders at Jeffers (right)

Featured Artifact: Havanoid Sherd *by LeRoy Gonsior*

Recent recovery of Middle Woodland pottery at Minneopa State Park sheds new light on the study of Havanoid ceramics in Minnesota.

The Havana Tradition was noted first in the Illinois River Valley and adjacent portions of the Mississippi River Valley as an archaeological culture united by participation in the Hopewellian Interaction Sphere beginning about 2200 years ago. Sorg and Howard Lake ceramics associated with that tradition are found along the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, as well as lakes in the region. Little archaeological research has been conducted on the Havana Tradition in Minnesota since its initial identification over 50 years ago by the University of Minnesota. Limited recent studies included radiocarbon dates from a nearly complete vessel from the Sandon site (2110± 50 BP) and a rim sherd from the Brauner Lake site (1910± 40 BP and 1980± 40 BP).

Havanoid ceramics are thick-walled, grit-tempered subconoidal shaped vessels decorated with zoned panels, ovoid and crescent stamps, dentates, cordwrapped stick impressions, bosses, and trailed lines. The newly discovered sherd from Minneopa State Park (see photograph) exhibits many of these diagnostic features.



Havanoid (Howard Lake/Sorg) rim sherd from Minneopa State Park.

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

Return Service Requested

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 and notices to jacob.foss@mnhs.org
Thank you for supporting the Minnesota Archaeological Society**