

Minnesota Archaeological Society

Summer (Apr—June) 2019

Published Quarterly



MAS Annual Dinner Recap



MAS members and guests visit while enjoying the “Taco del Seoul” buffet.



MAS President Dan Wendt presents Rod Johnson’s wife Diane and daughter Heather with Rod’s 2019 Hill-Lewis Award.



Dr. Brian Hoffman



Red Rock Ridge (Courtesy of Mapio.net)

We had a fantastic turnout for the MAS Annual Dinner and Meeting on April 26, 2019, at Hamline University. Dr. Brian Hoffman gave a fascinating talk on recent work that has helped elucidate the Precontact Period archaeological sites along the Red Rock Ridge, in the vicinity of the Jeffers Petroglyphs site in western Minnesota. Over 65 members and guests attended and there were many smiles, laughs, and thoughtful archaeological conversations.

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.

In February we lost Rod Johnson who was a 25 year board member of the Minnesota Archaeological Society and friend to the Minnesota archaeological community. He served MAS in the roles of President, Vice President and most recently Treasurer. His volunteer service crossed organizations across Minnesota. We will miss his public flint knapping demonstrations at the Science Museum of Minnesota, Kathio State Park, Fort Snelling State Park, The Cannon River Trail, The Snake River Fur Post and the Little Elk Heritage Reserve. We miss his spirit of volunteerism and his passion for Minnesota Archaeology.

The CMA Meeting was held at Saint Cloud State University on February 15th and 16th. The meeting packed with presentations and posters covering archaeological research across the state. Special sessions were held honoring Doug Birk's interest in historic archaeology and Steve Mulholland's interest in precontact archaeology and lithic studies. Thank you to St. Cloud State University for a great session.

The Lake Superior Basin Workshop was held March 15 and 16th at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Thank you to Sue Mulholland and the University for hosting a great event that brings together researchers and the avocational community to discuss current research and ideas about regional archaeology that we share between the Canadian and U.S. Shorelines of Lake Superior.

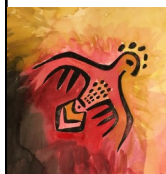
The MAS Annual Meeting was held on April 26 at Hamline University. Brian Hoffman gave us a great talk on collaborative study of the Red Rock Ridge in southwest Minnesota including Jeffers Petroglyphs, Pipestone National Monument and newly discovered petro forms that may reflect an astronomical observatory. At the meeting Rod Johnson was awarded the Hill Lewis award posthumously for his years of service to the Minnesota Archaeological Society Board and supporting archaeology in Minnesota through volunteer service in three organizations: The Institute for Minnesota Archaeology, The Science Museum of Minnesota and The Minnesota Historical Society.

This year we will be completing the Public Television Video "**Science and Critical Thinking in Minnesota Archaeology**". We have procured Legacy Grant funding for our second phase of work through the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Program. We are excited to be working with Twin Cities Public Television to share in the current public conversation about the explosion of popular culture 'fake archaeology' programs and present what archaeology can tell us about the exciting stories of the people who really lived in Minnesota. We are planning to release of the video in multiple forums in early 2020.

We hope to have the 2016 issue of the **Minnesota Archaeologist** printed and shipped this summer and the 2017 volume completed later this year. Thank you for your patience.

We have offered complete historical record of the **Minnesota Archaeologist** on a thumb drive. We learned from several people who bought the drive that there were gaps in the files. We apologize to anyone who was inconvenienced and we will be happy to send you a new corrected drive if you need one.

MAS Board



Our MAS Facebook site has a new look thanks to the original artwork of Sara Ronnevik. Thanks to Sara for the bright splashes of color on our site.

We are pleased that Mike Nowak has volunteered to be our **new MAS Treasurer**. Mike has big shoes to fill taking over from Rod Johnson who left us with a detailed set of records from his time on the Board. We will be complete our 2018 financial audit when Mike gets up to speed on our records.

Officers

Dan Wendt, President
 Chuck Diesen, Vice Pres.
 Pat Emerson, Secretary
 Mike Nowak, Treasurer
 Jake and Nicole Foss,
 Newsletter Editors
 Kent Bakken, *Minnesota Archaeologist* Managing Editor

Board Members

Erin Fallon
 LeRoy Gonsior
 Jasmine Koncur
 Anna Morrow
 Deborah Pommer
 Jennifer Rankin
 Bob Suchanek
 Mara Taft
 Mandy Winheiser

Hill-Lewis Award 2019 Announcement

The Hill–Lewis Award is given to an avocational archaeologist who has made outstanding contributions to Minnesota archaeology. The award recognizes individuals who have made important contributions to our knowledge of Minnesota archaeology through original research, publication, collaboration with professional archaeologists, public outreach, or exceptional K – 12 teaching.



Rod giving a flint-knapping demonstration

The award is named after two pioneering Minnesota archaeologists, Alfred J. Hill and Theodore H. Lewis, whose efforts led to the documentation of thousands of mounds and hundreds of archaeological sites in Minnesota during the late nineteenth century. The 2019 recipient of the Hill-Lewis Award is Rod Johnson from Burnsville, Minnesota.

We regret that Rod will receive this award posthumously due to his passing in February of this year. Rod has been involved in the Minnesota Archaeological Society for more than 30 years and for the past 25 years has served on our board of directors in several positions including President, Vice President and Treasurer. The Minnesota Archaeological Society would like to thank Rod and his family for the years of service to our organization and his support for public outreach and volunteer service in Minnesota Archaeology.

Starting in 1982, Rod was a twenty year volunteer throughout the existence of the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology. He assisted the IMA in field and lab work. He volunteered at various IMA public events and demonstrated his knowledge of stone tool manu-

facture and stone tool use. He held audiences spellbound with his ability to shape stone into tools. He was a volunteer at the Minnesota Historical Society from 2002 through 2019. His knowledge of stone tool manufacture made him the go to person in the lab for identifying stone tools and raw materials. Pat Emerson, the director of Archaeology at the Minnesota Historical Society indicated that she was “always confident that she could ask Rod to inventory a collection and that he would return complete and accurate descriptions”.

Rod was a volunteer at the Science Museum of Minnesota starting officially in 2007 and logged 1,250 hours in the lab cataloging artifacts from sites across Minnesota. He also participated in field work on the Ranelius and Sheffield site, and participated in several field surveys. Science Museum Archaeologist Mara Taft noted that in the lab he was “especially passionate about lithic tools and raw material identification”. Rod was “enthusiastic to help with public outreach events at the SMM by demonstrating flint-knapping techniques and teaching visitors about stone tools”. Fellow MAS board member Anna Morrow noted that “Rod was always the one to volunteer when anything needed to be done”. He saw to the printing of newsletters and was the first to volunteer for the mailing of Journals. He volunteered and contributed to every MAS event that we can remember. His passion, energy and commitment to supporting public involvement in archaeology make him the ideal recipient of this award.

We are pleased to recognize Rod for his significant contributions to Minnesota archaeology in the tradition of the Hill-Lewis Award.



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

In Memory of Rod Johnson

By Anna Morrow (MAS Board Member)



Rod sharing his knowledge with students

Like several of us, Rod attended the Saturday morning classes of the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology (1980-2007). With this group techniques were taught necessary for archaeological work such as identifying ceramics, lithics, etc. It was probably here that Rod began learning the technique of flintknapping. The group also had access to excavating, and other field skills working with professionals.

The MAS (1932 to date) had monthly lectures at Hamline University and when they moved their meetings to the Fort Snelling History Center Rod became a Board Member. From that time to date he held all the Board Offices with exception of Secretary. He was elected President several times and was always willing to take it on.

Rod volunteered to set up a MAS table at conferences, archaeological open days, etc. He taught mini classes on flintknapping at several schools, and during the summer at county events, etc. He was responsible for many new members of the MAS.

Rod became a volunteer at the Science Museum of Minnesota in the Archaeology Lab with Ed Fleming working there to date. He was a weekly attendee at the Fort Snelling Volunteer Night. With all the archaeological work, Rod's first priority was his family and would proudly show pictures of the grandchildren.

Rod always had his hand up and it was appreciated and when we least expect it we will look around and he won't be there. Our loss.

Announcements

It has come to our attention that many of the flash drives that the Minnesota Archaeological Society has sold that contain *Minnesota Archaeologist* (1935 – 2005) content do not work properly. We've found corrupted files, articles with missing pages, and incomplete editions. We've fixed the problem and going forward the flash drives we sell work as expected. If you purchased one of the malfunctioning flash drives and would like a replacement please get in touch with MAS (info@mnarchsociety.org) and provide your name, mailing address, and the date (approximate) that you bought the original flash drive.



There is new artwork on the MAS Facebook Page courtesy of Sara Ronnevik!

Archaeology Program at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park



Sunday, May 26

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Camping at Kathio... 1,500 B.C.

Step back in time as we look at artifacts and take a short walk to locations where archaeologists found evidence of a village from the 1600s and a “campsite” dating to over 3,000 years ago. Meet at the Interpretive Center.

There is no charge to attend the program. However, a vehicle permit is needed to access the park.

***The Minnesota Archaeologist* Publishing Update**

By Dr. Kent Bakken, editor of *The Minnesota Archaeologist*

The next volume of *The Minnesota Archaeologist* is nearing completion, and we hope to have it in print by the end of June. It will include a report on the Peterson site, also known as the Granite Falls Bison Kill, an Early Plains Archaic bison kill in Yellow Medicine County. The site was discovered in 1988, and excavations were conducted in 1988 and 1990.

The report represents an analysis of the Bison Bone Bed, the primary component identified at the Peterson site. The Bison Bone Bed at Peterson represents a 7,700 to 8,000 year old, late fall-early winter kill event with a minimum of 12 adult and juvenile bison present. Other papers deal with using X-ray diffraction to identify the sources of clay used in artifacts, pipestone tablets found in the upper Red River region, and more.

We are also working on a volume dedicated to longtime Minnesota Historical Society archaeologist

Doug George, who died in late 2013. This will include some of George's own papers, including reports on a survey at Knife Lake in 1973, at Birch Coulee Battlefield site in 1980, and others. There will also be a report on the 1972 excavation of the officers' latrine at historic Fort Snelling, which found stratified deposits dating from about 1824 to 1880. This volume is about half done, and we hope to have it in print early this fall.

We even have a few papers for a third volume, hopefully to appear around the end of the year. Meanwhile Lee Johnson and Bill Clayton are working on a volume in honor of longtime Minnesota archaeologist Doug Birk.



Chinese Canton ware export porcelain plate from the officers' latrine, Fort Snelling



1990 field investigations in the Bison Bone Bed, 21YM47

Cambria Ceramics (1000-1300 AD) from the Cambria Site Technology

By LeRoy Gonsior (MAS Board Member)



(Photograph from the Minnesota Historical Society Archaeology Department)

The Cambria site was initially defined as a single component agricultural village along the Minnesota River in Blue Earth County and identified as part of the Initial Middle Missouri Variant. Later, Cambria was included in the Northeastern Plains Village Tradition. For the Plains Village Culture in Minnesota, Cambria was preceded by the pioneering, and poorly represented Great Oasis ceramics identified in Murray County. The termination of Cambria ceramics was re-termed the Big Stone Phase on the South Dakota side of Big Stone Lake. Although the major villages have been identified along the Minnesota River, Cambria ceramics are frequently found along the lakes of western Minnesota. For interested readers, I recommend “The Prehistoric Village Cultures of Southern Minnesota”, which is available on the Office of the Minnesota State Archaeologist website under Research and then Statewide Survey 2013. From this study, Dr. George Holley and Dr. Michael Michlovic suggest the term Prairie Village rather than Plains Village.

Cambria ceramics are well made with grit-temper and have a predominantly smooth surface and sometimes are polished. Vessel shapes includes jars with handles. Decorations have variations of trailed line decorations with some cord impressions. Some classic vessels with rolled rims mimic Ramey incised vessels from Cahokia. The photograph shows the Mankato Incised Variety. Descriptions of the wide variation of Cambria ceramics are detailed and available in “A Handbook of Minnesota Prehistoric Ceramics.”

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

Return Service Requested

Join the Minnesota Archaeological Society

USA

Individual	\$30
Household	\$40
Senior (65+)	\$15
Student	\$15
Institution	\$60

Canada

Individual	\$40
Household	\$50
Institution	\$70

Both USA and Canada

Sustaining*	\$100
Benefactor**	\$250



- ◆ If you receive your newsletter by email and do not know when to renew your membership, ~ or ~
- ◆ If you receive your newsletter by snail mail or by email, and prefer the other



Contact Anna Morrow
anmorrow@q.com

*New Sustaining members will receive a free copy of the Minnesota Archaeologist 1935—2005 Compendium on a flash drive.

**New Benefactors will receive a free copy of the Minnesota Archaeologist 1935—2005 Compendium on a flash drive, and a seat as an Honored Guest at the Annual Dinner Meeting.

Send your MAS news and notices to foss_jacob@yahoo.com
Thank you for supporting the Minnesota Archaeological Society