

Minnesota Archaeological Society

Spring/Summer 2022

Triannual Publication



Todd Lindahl Awarded the 2022 Hill-Lewis Award

Todd Lindahl is the recipient of the 2022 Hill-Lewis Award, an honor bestowed on an avocational archaeologist by the Minnesota Archaeological Society in recognition of contributions to the archaeology of Minnesota. Mr. Lindahl, of Two Harbors, Minnesota, meets the criteria set out in the Hill-Lewis Award guidelines.

A.J. Hill, a civil engineer, and T.H. Lewis, a surveyor, initiated the Northwestern Archaeological Survey in 1881 with the goal of assembling a catalog of earthworks in the Upper Midwest. Neither Hill or Lewis was trained in archaeology, but through funding by Hill and fieldwork by Lewis, over 14,000 sites were recorded for posterity. They laid the groundwork for over a century of subsequent study.

In the spirit of Hill and Lewis, Mr. Lindahl has made important contributions to our knowledge of Minnesota archaeology through research, collaboration with professional

archaeologists, site stewardship, and public outreach. He has been active most directly in the archaeology of the Historic period of the Arrowhead Region, but he has demonstrated a consistent interest in more remote time periods as well. Lindahl was active in the Whisky Row archaeological project, reflecting on the early American settlement of Two Harbors. He made significant contributions to the restoration of a historic locomotive in Two Harbors and the depot in Knife River. Mr. Lindahl used his surveying skills to track old railroad grades and associated logging camps, he studied copper mines and shafts from the 1800s, aided in the creation of the Knife River Heritage Center, and contributes to its ongoing

activities. He routinely reports his field findings to the appropriate authorities so that they might be properly recorded.

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2022 Hill-Lewis Award Recipient, Todd Lindahl.

Photo Courtesy of Larry Furo

Letter from the President - July 2022

By Dan Wendt (MAS Board President)

The letter from the MAS 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 and future planning.

This spring we had member Community Archaeology Day events at Historic Forestville State Park in southeastern Minnesota and at the Charles Lindbergh House. Thanks to the Minnesota Historical Society Archaeology Department, MAS members had the opportunity to participate in shovel testing and excavation of units and learn about ongoing archaeology projects at these important MNHS locations.

We will publish Volume 79 of the *Minnesota Archaeologist* which will be focused on Fort Snelling Archeology. Our editor, Danielle Kiesow, has made great progress building a pipeline of content for future publication.

September is Archaeology Month. We will participate in Archaeology Day events at Fort Snelling and Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. Follow our web page and Facebook site for a full schedule of archaeology month activities.

We will conduct our MAS annual meeting at the Mille Lacs Kathio State Park Archaeology Day event on September 24th. We will have a lecture on Mille Lacs Area Archaeology led by Jim Cummings, he will be discussing an ongoing archaeology project at Petaga Point. At the annual meeting, we will be presenting the 2022 the Hill Lewis award. This year's recipient is North Shore Historian Todd Lindahl. Todd has connections with Lake County Historical Society and Northern Lakes Archaeological Society. He has a strong interest in documenting North Shore logging camps, mines, railroad encampments and depots. See the announcement in this newsletter.

If you missed any of our spring lectures you can catch up by watching them on our MAS YouTube Channel. Watch for upcoming lectures on Facebook and our web page.



Forestville Archaeology Event

MAS Board

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Danielle Kiesow, *Minnesota
 Archaeologist* Editor

Mission Statement: *Sharing, preserving, and honoring Minnesota's richly diverse archaeology and heritage through publication, education, and outreach.*

Meet a Board Member: Justin Olson



Justin working in the field.

MAS Board Position: Outreach Team

Background: Justin was born in St. Paul but grew up in Osakis, Minnesota. He earned a B.A. in anthropology and a minor in geology from St. Cloud State University in 2011 and an M.S. in Cultural Resources Management Archaeology from St. Cloud State University in 2014. Justin has been working as a Sr. Archaeologist at 106 Group for over eight years and has experience leading field crews all over the Upper Midwest and High Plains. His research interests are focused on Precontact archaeology in Minnesota and

paleoenvironmental reconstruction using oxygen isotopes of terrestrial gastropod shells from the High Plains.

Reason(s) why you wanted to be on the board: Justin has a passion for discussing Minnesota archaeology with students and the general public and he would like to get the younger generation interested in the archaeology of Minnesota.

Hobbies & Interests: Justin resides in Minneapolis and enjoys hiking at all the wonderful state parks in Minnesota.

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Lindahl has given numerous talks to the public and to students about regional pre- and post-contact history, and has made frequent contributions to the Knife River Heritage and Cultural Center newsletter. One of his letters of support put it in these terms: “Todd is a purist and can speak to all on subjects ranging from locomotive restoration, what floats on Lake Superior & what is on the bottom, dioramas, ... railroading, glacial & lithics, building restoration, curation & just about anything in the 'yesterday' of history...”

For his many contributions to the archaeological heritage of the Arrowhead region, the board of directors of The Minnesota Archaeological Society is pleased to award Mr. Todd Lindahl the Hill-Lewis Award for 2022.

MAS Seeks Treasurer and Web Developer

Are you interested in joining a community of archaeologists and contributing to archaeological outreach and education in Minnesota?

MAS is looking to fill two separate roles: Treasurer (two year board term) and Web Developer (volunteer role, no specific term limit). If you are interested in filling either of these essential roles, please reach out to MAS at info@mnarchsociety.org for more information!

Editor's Corner

by Danielle Kiesow - Lead Editor, *The Minnesota Archaeologist*

MAS recently conducted an **inventory of hardcopy back issues** available for purchase. For sale as follows:

- Back issues from 2021 to the present are for sale for \$15 per copy
- Back issues from 1991 to 2020 are for sale for \$10 per copy
- Back issues from 1967 to 1990 are for sale for \$5 per copy

The prices for these issues are reflective of their at-cost value for MAS and includes the cost of shipping. If you are interested in purchasing hardcopy back issues, contact MAS at info@mnarchsociety.org or at the mailing address listed in this newsletter for an order form that details available issues and topics discussed in each issue.

The **upcoming Volume 79 of *The Minnesota Archaeologist*** will be published by the end of this summer. The volume's eight articles center around precontact and historic sites within and around Fort Snelling and Bdote, the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. The volume opens with an article from David Mather contextualizing the environment, followed by an article from Edward Fleming and Joshua Anderson contextualizing precontact sites within Bdote. Ensuing articles from Alexandra Hedquist, Jeremy Nienow, Fred Sutherland, Laura Koski, Matt Flueger, and Michelle Terrell discuss recent archaeological excavations within Fort Snelling that touch upon precontact sites, historic ammunition uses, zooarchaeological differences between the Officers' and Enlisted Men's latrines, photographic analysis of a short-lived soldier's barracks, and Cantonment St. Peter's.

To make sure you receive your copy of Volume 79, stay current on membership to MAS and update your mailing address when applicable.

Archaeology Month Events

Archaeology Day Forestville, 9/3/2022

Archaeology Day Fort Snelling, 9/10/2022

Archaeology Day Split Rock Lighthouse, 9/17/2022

Archaeology Day Jeffers Petroglyphs, 9/17/2022

Archaeology Day Mille Lacs Kathio State Park, 9/24/2022

Minnesota Archaeological Society Annual Meeting

This year's MAS Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 24th from 4 - 5:30 pm at Mille Lacs State Park. Stay after the Mille Lacs Archaeology Day events to attend the business meeting and hear a lecture by Jim Cummings about research at Petaga Point.

Daily vehicle entrance fees to Mille Lacs State Park apply. To get a discounted rate of \$5, go to the state park office upon arrival and mention you are attending the Minnesota Archaeological Society annual meeting.

Meeting will be held outdoors with bench seating options, and light refreshments will be provided. More information to come via social media and our email list.

We hope to see you there!



Courtesy of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Also of Interest ...

Footprints and First People

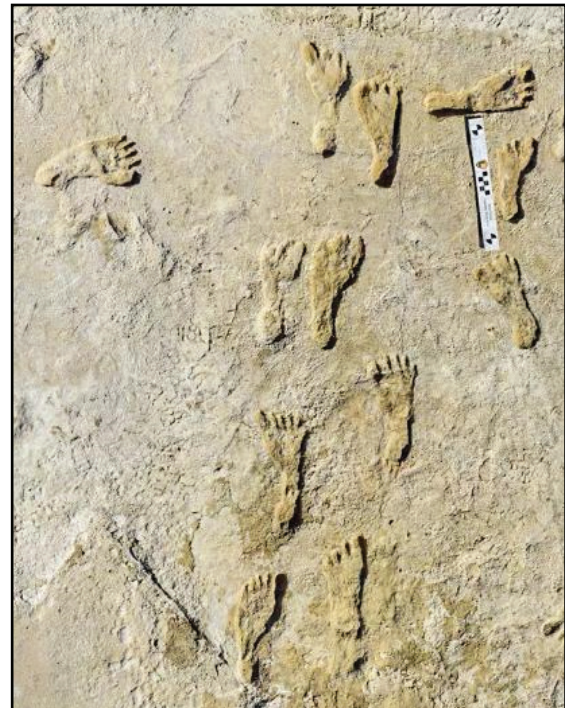
Summary by Bob Suchanek

In September 2021, the journal *Science* published a paper entitled “Evidence of humans in North America during the Last Glacial Maximum.” It presents images of multiple human footprints that are “stratigraphically constrained and bracketed by seed layers that yield calibrated radiocarbon ages between ~23 and 21 thousand years ago.” These human footprints and the footprints of mammoths, ground sloths, camels, and other Pleistocene fauna were preserved on the shore of an ancient lake in New Mexico's White Sands National Park.

During the ice age New Mexico received significantly more rainfall than it does now. Grasslands and wetlands surrounded the giant lake, providing food for large plant eaters such as camels, mammoths, and ground sloths. Predators, including the dire wolf, American lion, and people were attracted to the abundant food source. All left tracks that were preserved as fossilized evidence of their lives.

The National Park Service White Sands website: (<https://www.nps.gov/whsa/learn/nature/fossilized-footprints.htm>) is a great resource for further information and stories.

For example, one set of footprints appears to record a hunter stalking prey, the hunter's footprints are inside the footprints of a giant sloth. According to the NPS, “the fossilized footprints of White Sands are probably the most important resources in the Americas to understand the interaction of humans and extinct animals from the ice age.”



National Park Service Photo: Human Footprints at White Sands National Park, New Mexico

Also of Interest Continued ...

New Research: New Discoveries Bring the Kensington Runes Closer to Öhman

Many of you know the story of the Kensington runestone. In 1898, Olaf Öhman claimed to have found a slab of greywacke stone covered in runes in the roots of an aspen tree, on his farm near Kensington, MN. Since then, numerous experts and non-experts alike have weighed in on the stone's authenticity.

Recently Mats G. Larsson, a Swedish archaeologist, historian, and author published an article on the blog pages of the Swedish National Heritage Board. The article discusses new discoveries connecting the finder of the Kensington stone to the Kölsjön region, where several inscriptions in Kensington-style runes have been found.

Want to learn more? Well, you're in luck! Birgitta Wallace, retired Parks Canada Archaeologist, translated the article into English, with permission from the author, Mats G. Larsson. The document can be viewed on the MAS Website under Blog.



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Have an idea for the next newsletter?

We would like to hear from you! Send your MAS and archaeology related news and notices to info@mnarchsociety.org.

For archaeology news, events and more ... follow us on social media!



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membership, ~ or ~

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Contact MAS @
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*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.

Thank you for supporting the Minnesota Archaeological Society!