

Minnesota Archaeological Society

Fall 2024 - Winter 2024/2025 Biannual Publication



MAS Hill-Lewis Award 2024: Dr. George Shurr

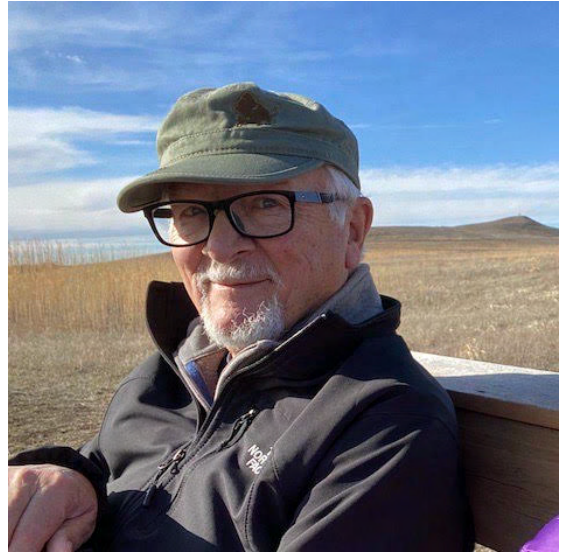
By Dan Wendt

The Board of The Minnesota Archaeological Society has named Dr. George Shurr recipient of the 2024 Hill-Lewis Award. The Hill-Lewis Award is named in honor of Alfred J. Hill and Theodore H. Lewis, financial sponsor and field surveyor respectively, who undertook an ambitious archaeological survey of Midwestern US earthworks. Though neither was a professional archaeologist, their contribution to Midwestern archaeology stands today as a shining chapter in understanding America's deep past.

Dr. Shurr, a retired geologist, has been a long-time advocate for archaeological studies in southwestern Minnesota and neighboring areas. He has assisted in archaeological studies at the Archaeology Lab at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, and has offered his property and the archaeological sites located on it for professional study. Dr. Shurr has also advocated and supported consultation with various THPOs for work on his property, assumed the expenses for geophysical surveys, and has offered financial support for native students to study archaeology in the field. One of the students that he supported worked on a study of Bijou Hills quartzite. With Dr. Shurr's assistance, she was able to attend the Plains Anthropological Conference where she presented a prize-winning student paper.

Dr. Shurr maintains a blog highlighting the archaeology of sites on his property and others in the vicinity of Rock County, Minnesota. He has conducted studies of the Rock River drainage and of Kanaranzi Creek where he lives. With Dale Henning, Shurr also presented a paper at the Geological Society of America on the Blood Run National Historic Landmark.

George Shurr has demonstrated a long-standing interest in archaeology. As an avocational he has made significant contributions to our understanding of the southwestern Minnesota region. His blog, titled "Land at the Edge of the Sky" features numerous entries expanding on the archaeological resources of the Rock River region. In recognition of Dr. Shurr's participation in uncovering the archaeological history of a part of Minnesota, his record of research, his collaboration with professional archaeologists, his stewardship of the archaeological resources on his property, his public outreach seen in his blog, and his efforts to work with tribal consultants, The Minnesota Archaeological Society presents him with the 2024 Hill-Lewis Award.



Dr. Shurr.

Letter from the President - July 2024

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 half year and future planning.

This fall we will be sending out Volume 81 of the Minnesota Archaeologist which will be a memorial volume to Doug Birk. There are seven great articles that highlight Minnesota Archaeology in the spirit of Doug Birk. Our Senior Editor, Danielle Kiesow, with this volume will be completing her sixth volume of the Minnesota Archaeologist. Danielle is looking to pass the Senior Editor role to a new editor. Please consider either a one volume guest editor role or picking up as Senior Editor of the Journal. We are very grateful to Danielle for her outstanding work as editor.

In June we had the Pine City, Snake River Fur Post Knap in. It was very good to see old friends and break some stone. The event was well attended by visitors to the Fur Post. We appreciated the support of the event by the Historical Society staff and volunteers.

September will be Archaeology Month and MAS is involved in three weekends of activities in support. Programs included Archaeology weekends at Fort Snelling, Jeffers Petroglyphs, and Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. Watch our Facebook and web page for more information. September will also be our annual meeting. This year's event will be Friday September 27th at the Minnesota Historical Society's Oliver Kelly Farm near Elk River, Minnesota. Please plan on coming to share an evening with friends, dinner, and archaeology. We are excited about this new venue for our meeting.

At the annual meeting we will be awarding the 2024 Hill Lewis Award which recognizes outstanding contributions by avocational archaeologists in Minnesota. This year's recipient will be Dr. George Shurr for supporting the study of Archaeology in Southwestern Minnesota. Check out the full announcement in this newsletter. We are pleased to continue this important tradition of recognizing avocational contributions to Minnesota Archaeology.

MAS lectures have become a virtual gathering point for our community to discuss regional archaeology topics. Thanks to Michael Michlovic for planning and Mandy Wintheiser for moderating these meetings. In October, Alex Hedquist will give a talk featuring her Master's Program research at Saint Cloud State University on stone tool technology in Minnesota. Please check the schedule on Facebook and or web page. Also check out past lectures on our YouTube channel.

MAS Board of Directors

- Dan Wendt, President
- Jasmine Koncur, Vice President
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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.*

REQUESTS:

Call for New Editor

Danielle Kiesow, Lead Editor, The Minnesota Archaeologist

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time editing articles and learning about research that's occurring around the state, but it is time to pass the torch after 5 years editing for The Minnesota Archaeologist. MAS is looking for a new Lead Editor for the journal with good communication skills, a keen sense for grammatical detail, and time to edit articles throughout the year to maintain annual publications. I am happy to walk the new Lead Editor through their first publication as my time allows. If there is a lot of interest in the position, it is possible to develop an editing team to help share the workload.

If you are interested in editing The Minnesota Archaeologist, please contact info@mnarchsociety.org.

MAS Hill-Lewis Award 2025: Call for Nominations

The Hill-Lewis Award is given annually by MAS to a living avocational archaeologist who has made outstanding contributions to Minnesota archaeology. The MAS Board is seeking nominations for the 2025 Hill-Lewis Award. Please forward your nomination to Dan Wendt, MAS President at Wendt001@gmail.com. The 2025 submission deadline is in June 2025.

Nominees for the award should have made important contributions to our knowledge of Minnesota archaeology (prehistoric or historic) through original research or publication, collaboration with professional archaeologists, site stewardship, site preservation, public outreach, or exceptional K-12 teaching. Nominees do not have to be members of the Minnesota Archaeological Society. Nominators should submit a nomination letter detailing the nominee and their accomplishments, as well as at least one letter of support for the nomination. The Hill-Lewis Award will be awarded in September at our annual meeting during Archaeology Month.

The Hill-Lewis Award epitomizes the MAS goals of increasing public involvement in archaeology and in promoting the stewardship of the unique and irreplaceable archaeological record of Minnesota.

CMA Conference 2025: Call for Abstracts

The Council for Minnesota Archaeology Conference in 2025 will be held February 21 & 22, 2025 at the University of Minnesota in the Humphrey Conference Center. Start your planning! Share the news widely!

If you have a paper or poster abstract ready to go already - please send it directly to CMA President Lucy Harrington at luharrington@gmail.com. If you would like to arrange a session, please reach out to me and I will do what I can to assist as needed.

We already have one panel planned and the current working title is Archaeology/Anthropology Degrees Careers Ask-Me-Anything Panel. If you would like to be involved in the panel, reach out to Lucy.



In Memoriam: Grant Goltz, 1943-2024

Memorial and photographs provided by Ron Miles

MAESTRO GRANT EUGENE GOLTZ was/is a visionary international treasure. He didn't die, he lives. He would never stop short of making a vision distillately-manifest.

Functionally, he knew things inside and out. GRANT deliberately left honest tracks, widening and deepening horizons geologically, ecologically, and archaeologically. The consummate selfless teacher, he patiently started with your time, place, and curiosity. I am eternally grateful that he was a personal friend, at home and on many indelible trails.

Birchbark canoe builder/historian, traditional potter, world-class wood carver, experimental organic gardener, master luthier, ecologist, geologist, archaeologist, naturalist, exemplary teacher, folk musician, brew meister... (all such lists are naively abbreviated.)

He generally helped me repair this, my half-century-old forty-five-minute sand glass, so as to underscore that LIVING remains ANALOG, and NOT DIGITAL! Should there ever be a National Register of Historic People, GRANT EUGENE GOLTZ timelessly belongs.



2024 MAS Annual Meeting & Registration

This year's MAS annual meeting will be held on September 27, 2024 at Oliver Kelley Farm. Dinner will be catered ahead of the MAS business meeting. Amanda Butler, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Minnesota State University Moorhead, will give a lecture. Times are to be determined - please follow our social media channels for more information!

Amanda is an anthropological geoarchaeologist specializing in North American archaeology. Her research interests include religious movements and transitions, landscape and provenance studies, lithic studies, relational ontologies, Indigenous oral histories, historical archaeology and the archaeology of vice.

She currently resides in Fargo with her geologist husband and two dogs who are part of the short-leg brigade, a wiener dog and a corgi-mix.

Register for the annual meeting online at mnarchsociety.org, or cut and mail the bottom half of this page. Registration is \$25/person, which includes catered dinner. Parking is free at Oliver Kelley Farm, 15788 Kelley Farm Rd, Elk River, MN 55330.

2024 MAS Annual Meeting Registration

MAS Annual Meeting Registration is \$25 per person. Please enclose a check for the total amount written to the Minnesota Archaeological Society with this form.

Number of Attendees: _____

Attendee Names: _____

Please mail this form and a check written to the Minnesota Archaeological Society to:

Minnesota Archaeological Society
328 W Kellogg Blvd
St Paul, MN 55102

MAS Annual Meeting Lecture

Mississippian Missionaries: Bundling a Cahokian Religious Movement

Amanda Butler, PhD

There is an established history of archaeologists grappling with the how of Cahokia's rise and expansion. Archaeologists exploring the peripheries of the Mississippian world often see terms like outpost, influence, and Mississippianization used as descriptors for entanglements with Late Woodland cultures and places. Recent research points to a religious founding of Cahokia where a citation of the cosmos was built directly into the Cahokian landscape and then bundled as part of a larger religious movement that expanded out from Cahokia in a ripple effect of change. Drawing from Indigenous philosophies, I explore the concept of the bundle and bundling to hypothesize that the establishment and dissemination of a Cahokia-Mississippian religion is best understood as a bundled mission comprised of missionaries (human and other-than-human), places, things, and substances generating said religious movement. This talk examines a case study of a small Mississippian mission that actively missionized local communities, differentially impacted local experiences, and entangled them within a larger Cahokian-Mississippian religious landscape.

September Archaeology Month Events

State Capitol Complex Archaeology Tours

September 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27

Two tours every Wednesday and Friday 10:00-11:30am & 2:00-3:30pm

A team of archaeologists are at work near the Minnesota State Capitol performing excavations to assess the archaeological potential of the area. This information will be used to synthesize the buried past of St. Paul and to evaluate National Register eligibility for a potential Minnesota State Capitol Mall Historic District. Tours will depart from the Hubert H. Humphrey Statue. Free registration at mnhs.org/events

Archaeology Day at Historic Fort Snelling - September 7, 10:00am-3:00pm

Try throwing an atlatl, learn how to make pottery, and venture under the floorboards using new technology to get a glimpse of life at Fort Snelling.

Archaeology Day at Jeffers Petroglyphs - September 14, 10:00am-3:00pm

Learn about the archaeology of the Red Rock Ridge and how new technology helps archaeologists understand the past. Participate in pottery making crafts, atlatl throwing, and more!

MAS Annual Meeting at Oliver Kelley Farm - September 27, times to be determined

Register online at mnarchsociety.org, or cut out the registration form on Page 5 of this newsletter

Archaeology Day at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park - September 28, 10:00am-3:00pm

Come experience a full day of demonstrations and activities highlighting archaeology and the rich heritage of the Mille Lacs area. Demonstrations will include spears and spear-throwers, flint knapping, archaeological food cooking techniques ... and more!

Meet a Board Member: Selena Bernier



Boozhoo! Aaniin! Selena indizhinikaaz. Mashkiziibii indoonjibaa. Greetings! My name is Selena Bernier. I am from the Bad River Ojibwe reservation in Wisconsin. In 2020, I was a non-traditional transfer student starting school again after years of schooling in several different programs. I received my bachelors in anthropology at the University of Minnesota in 2021. Currently, I am in my third year in the anthropology PhD program at the same school. I was awarded the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship for my work with reanalyzing/Indigenizing the Old Copper Culture.

MAS Position: Outreach Team

Work: Right now my primary jobs are being a full-time student and being at home with my baby as much as I can, another full-time job and a half! Due to my primary jobs, I am working part-time at the Science Museum of Minnesota as an archaeology technician.

Reasons why you wanted to be on the board: I joined MAS for more involvement in local archaeology, I am still learning so much. I have noticed that an Indigenous perspective has been often overlooked in conversations about Minnesota archaeology. I love being included in the necessary change that is happening now within those conversations.

Hobbies & Interests: I love spending time with my family, my wonderful husband and amazing baby girl. I enjoy being outdoors, whether on land while hiking, or on water while kayaking. I am learning how to sew now, but I like crafting in general and learning new crafts.

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!*



Minnesota Archaeological Society
Kellogg Center, Archaeology Dept.
328 Kellogg Blvd. W.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Return Service Requested

Join the Minnesota Archaeological Society

USA

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

Canada

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

Both USA and Canada

Sustaining*	\$100
Benefactor**	\$250

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



Contact MAS @
info@mnarchsociety.org.

*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!