Greetings CMA Members!

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank everyone who participated in the 2019 CMA Conference at SCSU. Our conference organizers did an amazing job: sessions were full and ran smoothly; the Friday night Elden Johnson Lecture was outstanding; and our business meeting was well attended. Because of these and other efforts, our membership continues to expand and get back up-to-date. We now have a PayPal option for annual dues, and Fred has been working with membership as a whole to encourage payment. We recently passed a motion to allow all previous members to enjoy a one-time amnesty membership opportunity. If you have not paid dues in a while, consider rejoining by paying just one year of past dues and then the current dues year ($50.00 total).

I am still looking for individuals to join a special ethics committee specifically examining the relationship between our current ethics statements and the inclusion of business ethics into this. Our industry continues to skew toward Cultural Resource Management and our membership reflects this movement. If you are a small business owner or an institutional member, please consider joining this committee by contacting me (Jeremy.Nienow@gmail.com).

The Minnesota Archaeological Society in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television (using Legacy funds) is producing a 30min documentary on critical thinking in archaeology. They are currently seeking "b-roll" footage: video, photos, etc. to use as part of their production. If you want to share some of your experiences with them via this opportunity - please let me know and I can get you the media release form and put you in touch with them.

It continues to be a banner time for both archaeology in our state - as well as conferences! This fall the Midwest Archaeological Conference will be held at Minnesota State University, Mankato October 10-12th. The CMA has already financially pledged our support for the conference, and we will have a membership meeting during the conference itself. Let’s see how many Minnesota based papers we can give at the conference! Also, I know an upcoming Society for Historical Archaeology conference will also be held in the Twin Cities.

As winter begins to abate and we turn our eyes toward the 2019 field season please be careful out there and remember the CMA's purpose, "to promote archaeological research and interpretation within the State of Minnesota by 1) stimulating, encouraging and supporting scientific archaeological field research, 2) initiating responsible action to conserve and preserve archaeological resources, 3) engaging and supporting others in interpreting and disseminating the results of scientific archaeological research”

I look forward to seeing everyone in the near future.

Jeremy L. Nienow, Ph.D., RPA
A Message from the Secretary of the Council for Minnesota Archaeology

Hi Everyone,

Since February we have made a great deal of progress on membership. As of March 26th, we now have 47 active members up to date on their dues. That is way up from less than 20 before February. This includes 7 student members, 34 regular members, and 6 Institutional Members.

We now have PayPal linked to our organization’s account, making it easier to send out dues reminders, cover event fees, and collect payments from members. We will continue to gladly accept written checks. As of mid-March, we have mobile deposits set on our account at Deerwood Bank so we can deposit checks almost immediately when we receive them. This system also allows us to keep the physical copy of the check in a dated folder in case any member has questions about the last time they paid in for dues.

As always, I am available to talk with members about any questions or issues they might have regarding CMA membership dues and upcoming events. Please contact me by email at fsuthy@gmail.com.

Thanks and I look forward to working with you again this spring!

Fred Sutherland, Ph.D, RPA
Secretary

Council for Minnesota Archaeology Online

Did you know?

Our website is up and running! Read our by-laws, blog or check out the soon-to-be-added calendar of local archaeology events:
http://mnarcheology.org/

Social Media

The Council for Minnesota Archaeology is on Facebook!

Like our page to see our updates on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/CouncilforMinnesotaArchaeology/
Research Briefs

Student Paper Prize Winner

Alexandra Hedquist (St. Cloud State University)

Trace Element Analyses and Protein Analysis of Obsidian Artifacts Found at Site FN021 in Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Central Minnesota

This report contains the results of analyses that were completed on three obsidian flakes found at a Woodland period archaeological site located in central Minnesota. The site, named FN021 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, was excavated during St. Cloud State University’s 2018 summer field school. The presence of exotic raw materials, like obsidian, suggests the practice of long distance trade and the development of more complex social networks during the Woodland period of central Minnesota. The goal of this research was to determine the geologic provenance of two obsidian flakes, and to analyze the third for traces of blood and/or lipid residue. A trace element analysis, using non-destructive energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence (EDXRF), was completed on two flakes to ascertain their geologic origin. A second trace element analysis was then completed, on the same two flakes, using non-destructive scanning electron microscopy and energy dispersive spectroscopy (SEM-EDS) to generate baseline compositional data that was compared to the results of the EDXRF analysis. Finally, a protein analysis, using counter immunoelectrophoresis (CIEP), was completed on a third flake to determine the presence of blood and/or lipid residue.

Congratulations to Alexandra Hedquist!

The Red Rock Ridge Research Group

The Red Rock Ridge Research Group has continued its research on Southwest Minnesota’s Red Rock Ridge with a survey of 242 acres of land owned by the Red Rock Quarry three miles west of the Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site. The survey began in the spring of 2018 and will resume this spring. Important findings from last season include two new petroglyph sites, two astronomical petroforms and lithic scatters. Began in 1998, the Red Rock Ridge Research Group is made up of American Indian elders, historians, archaeologists, and ecologists whose goal is to promote the conservation of American Indian Sacred sites on southwest Minnesota’s Red Rock Ridge. The RRRRG believes that the most effective conservation program must incorporate two approaches: education and preservation. The RRRRG recognizes that research is necessary as the foundation of education and preservation. Thus, the activities of the RRRRG are research, public education, and preservation. Although our main focus is the cultural sites and the ecology of the Red Rock Ridge, we recognize that the cultural sites and the ecology of Red Rock Ridge does not and did not throughout its long history exist in a cultural or ecological vacuum. Therefore, our area of concern includes wherever and whenever connections are known. To date, members of the RRRRG have surveyed 1223 acres on the Ridge, identified 14 new sites, 6300 petroglyphs, one pictograph, two pipestone quarries, three astronomical observatories and 13 linear, circular and cairn petroforms.
Members of the Group include Joe Williams, Bob Larsen, Tom Sanders, Brian Hoffman, Forest Seaberg-Wood and Charles Broste. 
Contact: Tom Sanders-thomsanders51@gmail.com

Petroglyph and Petroform sites on the Red Rock Ridge

Buffalo Hoofprint Petroglyph
Southern Minnesota Construction Site

Northern Lunar Extreme Astronomical Petroform-Red Rock Quarry Site
Graduate Student Highlights

The Council for Minnesota Archaeology would like to show our appreciation for those students who have boldly decided to pursue a career in the field of archaeology. Learn more about Minnesota’s incredible graduate students who enrich our archaeological professional community.

*If you would like to be featured in our Graduate Student Highlights, please send an email to Anastasia Walhovd (Anastasia.Walhovd@gmail.com). If you know a graduate student that you would like to see featured, please send Anastasia an email with the graduate student’s contact information so she may work with the student directly.*

Laura Koski – University of York

Laura Koski’s graduate research at the University of York focuses on using Zooarchaeological Mass Spectrometry (ZooMS) to aid in tracking the colonization of the brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) across Europe and the Americas. Developed at the University of York, the ZooMS method utilizes the molecular barcode of surviving collagen within archaeological animal material to determine the species the material belongs to. Laura has the support of the University of York BioArch department to attempt to set up a US-based practice with which she will help develop a Midwest-specific database, and continue to explore ways in which ZooMS may be utilized. She will also be using her MSc in Zooarchaeology to continue conducting more traditional faunal analyses in the region.

Job Postings

**Blondo Consulting, LLC – Archaeology Field Technician**

Blondo Consulting, LLC is now hiring seasonal Archaeology Field Technicians for the 2019 field season with a potential start date in April (weather dependent). A prior field school is required. Prior Phase I, II, and III archaeology experience is preferred with the ability to work both independently and as a team. Per diem will be provided and hourly compensation will be based on experience. Please send resumes and cover letters to:

Kelly Wolf
kellywolf@blondoconsulting.com
Upcoming Events

Minnesota Archaeological Society Annual Meeting and Dinner
Friday, April 26th
Hamline University

Maya Society of Minnesota Friday Lecture
7:00 PM Friday, May 3rd
Hamline University
“City of Water, City of Fire: Space, Object and Identity in the City of the Gods”, Friday lecture by Matthew H. Robb, Chief Curator of the Fowler Museum at UCLA, Maya Society of Minnesota Event

Midwest Archaeological Conference
Thursday – Sunday, October 10-12th
Mankato, MN
See www.midwestarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/upcoming for more details.

Deadline for Submissions for the Summer CMA Newsletter
Monday, June 17th
Please send your submissions to Anastasia Walhovd, Anastasia.walhovd@gmail.com by the end of the day.

Council for Minnesota Archaeology Meeting
TBD between Oct. 10th – 12th
Mankato, MN
The CMA will host its next meeting during the Midwest Archaeological Conference this October. Time and specific location will be announced at a later time.

See these events and more from other archaeological organizations in Minnesota on our website!
http://mnarcheology.org/

Would you like to see your event included on the CMA website? Send the event details to Anastasia Walhovd. Anastasia.walhovd@gmail.com

Updates? Corrections?

Please send any corrections to Anastasia Walhovd at Anastasia.Walhovd@gmail.com.