

A Letter from the President of the Council for Minnesota Archaeology

Looking to the Next Season

As the winter season settles in for the long haul, we often focus on the next field season. Amidst the hustle of end-of-year curation and reports, meeting licensure requirements, and taxes; we typically take the time to check equipment, make contacts with our client base, and start mentally planning the next time we can take to the field. I like to do this from a warm beach myself, but we all have our getaways and pleasures which we have put off during the summer months.

I have also been taking stock of the CMA. Over the past two years I have restarted committees, made plans with the executive team, shifted our meeting location (as we lost Fort Snelling due to renovation), and hoped for a resurgence in attendance and membership. We did have the opportunity to honor some of our founding members last year (before Christina Harrison's death), and our membership has seen some gains with our collective changes to the membership structure (an MA is no longer a requirement for professional membership and we have the student rank now). However, on the whole we still face the grim visage of stagnation.

Often I hear the refrain, "Why should I join the CMA? What benefits do I get?". Besides the warm glow of knowing you are a member of the only professional archaeology group in Minnesota – I have struggled to answer these questions. We have started offering training sessions at our meetings (most recently a SHPO training), we have a functioning list-serve, and regular meetings in the metro area. I would also like to consider offering free access to upcoming CMA conferences, publications of select grey literature, tours, and more.

However, the greatest value of this organization is its potential for advocacy. We should be advocates for our fellow archaeologists. We should have a voice at the capital, we should help other organizations promote their archaeological endeavors, and we should strongly promote the field by advertising field schools, helping students find internship and volunteer opportunities, posting jobs, and generally aiding the next group of technicians, supervisors, directors, and principal investigators.

This is especially true as we lose more of our core members over the years to professional attrition. With the loss of Pat Emerson this past year, we need to step up and do more with Minnesota Archaeology Week. Considering how much of our very livelihoods come from public dollars – it behooves us to engage, excite, and educate that very same public.

We clearly need archaeologists who are locally trained, familiar with our contexts, and adapted to our unique professional culture. We need to be more

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Current Officers:

Jeremy Nienow
President

Ryan Grohnke
Vice-President
(Elections for this position to be held February 29th)

Fred Sutherland
Secretary/Treasurer

Anastasia Walhovd
Editor

Tim Tumberg
Past-President

more active in making sure the next group of students can be found here in Minnesota. To quote Paul Wellstone, "We all do better when we all do better." Do you have ideas for drawing more members to join our ranks? Or perhaps you have an idea for just bringing more value to the organization – or even a one-off idea for where to host the next meeting or an activity to bring people out.

Please help us plan our next season, won't you?



Jeremy L. Nienow, Ph.D., RPA
President, CMA
Owner and Principal, Nienow Cultural Consultants, LLC

A Letter from Secretary Treasurer

Happy 2020 fellow CMA members!

We had a very good 2019 in terms of membership and funding. Our account balance is approximately \$4,800 compared to about \$5000 at this time last year. Since we approved a \$750 memorial donation to the MAS for Pat Emerson in late October 2018 this explains the difference in our balances. The other main expenses over the year relate to our sponsorship of the Fall Midwest Archaeological Conference at \$500 and about \$250 for catering at our December CMA gathering.

In terms of membership, we ended 2019 with 49 active members which included 6 institutional members, 7 student members, and 36 regular members. As of January 15, 2020, over half of our membership has renewed their dues. At this time last year we only had 22 active members. This was largely due to lapsed memberships just before the 2019 CMA conference in February. The first full year of the new student membership reflects a good start that I hope we can grow over this year. Membership invoices have been sent via PayPal. You can now choose to pay digitally through PayPal or by mailing a personal check to our new address at the Kellogg Center. Best of luck this year and looking forward to seeing you all soon!

- Fred Sutherland, Ph.D., RPA

Mailed items should be sent to:

Council for Minnesota Archaeology
Kellogg Center
328 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Announcements

CMA Meeting with Elections to be held February 29th, 2020 At Saint Cloud State University

When: February 29, 2020 (Exact Time TBA – Expect Afternoon)

Where: Saint Cloud State University (Exact Address TBA)

What: Elections for Vice President will be held at the meeting. A presentation on Tribal Government will be given by Anastasia Walhovd, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

2020 Dues are Due

All current members should have received an invoice in their email from PayPal asking for 2020's member dues. See the Secretary-Treasurer letter above for more details. If you did not receive an invoice, please email Secretary-Treasurer Fred Sutherland (fsuthy@gmail.com) to edit your contact information on file.

A Few Words from Vice President Candidate, Laura Koski

I have been working as an archaeologist in Minnesota Cultural Resource Management for the past seven years. I completed my B.A. in Anthropology at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, earned my Professional Certification in Geographic Information Systems at Itasca Community College, have trained in human remains excavation and analysis at the Transylvania Bioarchaeology Field School in Romania through Durham University, and most recently earned my MSc in Zooarchaeology with Distinction from the University of York in the UK. I have been running my business, Zooarchaeo Consulting, LLC, for the past two years and in that time have been completing contracting work as a Zooarchaeologist, GIS specialist, and general archaeologist for companies such as Archaeo-Physics and Nienow Cultural Consultants as well as being employed by Merjent as a crew chief. Prior to starting my business I also participated in projects with various organizations including Minnesota Historical Society, Science Museum of Minnesota, University of Minnesota, and Blondo Consulting, LLC. I have experience as president and secretary of several organizations including president for two years of the University of Minnesota Sigma Alpha Lambda Honor Society chapter. Though this was a number of years ago, the experience nevertheless applies.

My primary interest to help build the CMA as Vice President is to work with members to more effectively engage the new generation of students and young professionals in Minnesota archaeology. In order to accomplish this goal if I am elected, I plan to increase and streamline communications with local Universities by contacting archaeology-focused student interest groups directly regarding the CMA and what it can offer student members. Second, I will help generate ideas and plan more trainings, talks and events intended both to strengthen the existing community of archaeological professionals and to help young professionals and students meet and engage with Minnesota's established archaeologists. As an added measure to encourage student engagement, these events would be held at local University campus locations accessible to students, faculty, and the public. Lastly—if I am elected—I will further encourage engagement between new professionals and students with established archaeologists through a variety of mentorship programs. If elected, I would be honored to serve the CMA as its next Vice President and do the best I can to help strengthen us as a professional organization in our community.

Laura Koski, MSc, RPA - Candidate for Vice President

2020 Lake Superior Basin Workshop

The 2020 annual Lake Superior Basin Workshop will be held at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. Dates are MARCH 20 (FRIDAY) & 21 (SATURDAY). Details as to times and building/room will be announced later.

The emphasis of this workshop is on face-to-face interactions between exhibitors and attendees, demos, and displays/examples of artifacts (e.g., your latest find, a puzzling artifact for which opinions are sought, unique or good examples of artifact types, site collections). Exhibits can be on any archaeological or related topic: anthropology, Native American studies, geology, etc. Posters are welcomed but please check with one of the organizers, Jill Taylor-Hollings (jstaylo1@lakeheadu.ca), if you will need poster space. Formal “papers” are sometimes included during the workshop but this is not a typical conference of paper after paper. So come prepared to observe and discuss!

The workshop is free and open to the public.

For more information or to get on the email list, see:

Sue Mulholland, tel: 218-355-0153, email: suemulholland@aol.com.

Field Schools

Field School Course University of Minnesota Duluth in Summer 2020

WHAT: ANTH 4695, Field Research in Archaeology, University of Minnesota Duluth

CONTACT: Susan Mulholland, smulholl@d.umn.edu or suemulholland@aol.com, 218-355-0153

WHEN: July 6 – August 21, 2020

APPLICATIONS DUE: May 26, 2020. Email or call Sue Mulholland; visit UMD –Anthropology webpage at z.umn.edu/umd-anthropology

ANTH 4696, Field Research in Archaeology, is a 6 week/6 credit course held between July 6 and August 21, 2020 (one week is a break). The course offers a week of classroom lectures/demonstrations (July 6-10) and a week of lab work (August 17-21). Four weeks of field work include survey (walkover and shovel testing) and excavation, focusing on a pre-Contact site (or series of sites) north of Duluth but a historic site will also be visited. Call or email for more information.

Minnesota State University - Mankato

Summer Archaeological Field School – Exploring Belle Creek (21GD0072)

May 18 – June 19, 2020

Work directly with a Native American Community on a Native-owned Heritage Site

The Belle Creek site is a large complex of villages and burial mounds. Part of the site was recently acquired by the Prairie Island Indian Community, and we will be collaborating with the Community and their Tribal Historic Preservation Office to investigate the site.

Learning Activities

- Learn non-invasive Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) technology by investigating mound and non-mound areas.
- Learn high precision mapping using a Total Station to prepare a detailed site map.
- Learn archeological methods by conducting excavations in non-mound, habitation areas, informed by GPR results.
- Learn mapping and photogrammetry using a drone.
- Learn geomorphology by taking soil cores and describing the sediments.
- Help develop a site management plan for the Community.

Course Information and Application

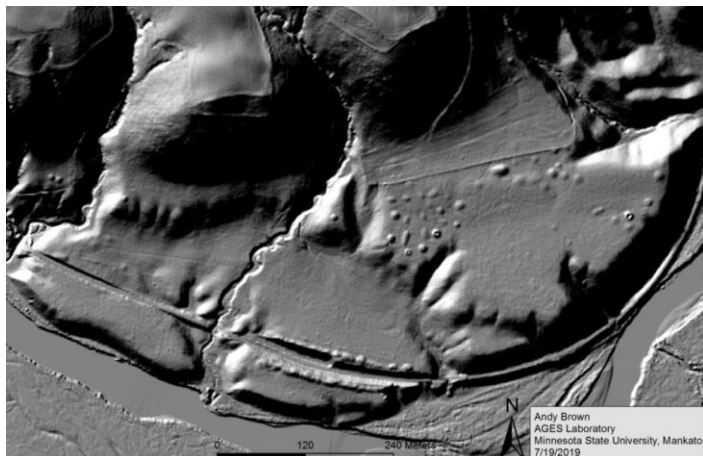
This is an intensive 6-credit field course (Anthropology 4/580) for undergraduate or graduate credit. Most participants will be camping on site during the week and returning home on the weekends. Additional details about camping, and a list of required field equipment are available from the instructor.

To apply, send a brief statement of interest and your background in archeology to the course instructor via email. You will be promptly answered and given further details about registration.



Course Instructor

Dr. Ron Schirmer (ronald.schirmer@mnsu.edu)
Department of Anthropology
359 Trafton Science Center North
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Mankato, MN 56001
507.389.6612 (office) or 507.389.6318 (department)



Minnesota Archaeology Research Grants

Riaz Malik Research Grant Program 2019-2020 Academic Year

**Council for Minnesota Archaeology
Applications due February 24, 2020**

The CMA offers semi-annual research grants to support projects that advance the study of Minnesota archaeology. Examples of appropriate uses include specialist analytical costs (such as a radiocarbon date or time on a scanning electron microscope), or laboratory or field supplies intended for a specific research project (bags, vials, chemicals, etc). The monetary amount of each grant awarded is determined by the selected applications and the availability of funds. Based on the program's history, we expect the current awards to not exceed \$800. Student projects have priority. If no viable student applications are received, the grant is available to CMA members (same application deadline).

Required for application:

- Description of research project, with role of Research Grant defined
- Detailed budget and schedule
- Letter of support from applicant's academic advisor (for student projects)

Electronic submissions are welcome (a single PDF file is preferred). Applications will be reviewed by the grants committee, and recommendations forwarded to the full CMA membership at the upcoming February 29th meeting. Applicants will be informed of the membership's decision immediately following the meeting. Funds will be made available to successful applicants as soon as possible after the notification.

Send applications to:

David Mather – National Register Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office
50 Sherburne Avenue/ 203 Administration Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155
david.mather@state.mn.us

Deadline for receipt of applications: February 24, 2020

Requirements: It is expected that grant recipients will publish their results in the CMA Newsletter, *The Minnesota Archaeologist* or other suitable format.

Riaz Malik came to Minnesota as a student of Elden Johnson at the University of Minnesota. He made significant contributions to investigations at Mille Lacs, Prairie Island, along the Rainy River, and elsewhere. As part of the Minnesota Trunk Highway Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey, he co-directed the data recovery investigations at the Bradbury Brook site (21ML42), pictured above. Riaz passed away in 1993.

Research Briefs

Old Cedar South (21HE483), A Cobble Quarry in the Minnesota River Valley

The Old Cedar South (21HE483) site is located on a low terrace of the Minnesota River in Bloomington, Minnesota. This section of terrace has been eroded along the bluff line and upstream end to form a long ridge that slopes down near its upstream end. Near the base of the terrace is a geological stratum of coarse sand and gravel that is also especially rich in cobbles, many of them toolstone. This cobble-rich deposit was near the surface at the end of the ridge and along the eroded terrace flank facing the river floodplain. In these areas the stratum was quarried for cobbles of toolstone, which were tested on the spot. Unsatisfactory cobbles were discarded into the quarrying debris, while better-quality cobbles were removed from the quarry area for further reduction at other locations.



The site was discovered in 2015 by Christina Harrison, Archaeological Research Services, who also conducted Phase II work at the site later that year (Harrison 2015; Harrison and Bakken 2016). Harrison also found a second site, Old Cedar North (21HE484), nearby on the ridge. Subsequent Phase II work and monitoring was conducted by Florin Cultural Resource Services, LLC (Florin et al. 2018; Florin et al. 2020). Combined work at the site included excavation of nine 1 x 1 m test units and 57 shovel tests, plus surface survey and construction monitoring. The known site area covers about 1.6 acres. This suggests that quarrying at the site was episodic and involved repeated visits over an extended time period.

Testing along the low end of the ridge typically showed about 10 cm of historic-period fill over 50 to 60 cm of quarrying debris that showed no clear internal structure, over fluvial sand. Testing along the eroded terrace flank showed about 30 cm of historic-period fill over 120 to 150 cm of quarrying debris, over fluvial sands. Interestingly, the deep quarrying deposits along the terrace flank included two discernable strata that were different in sediment texture. Analysis also showed differences between the artifact assemblages in these strata. We hypothesize that the two strata represent distinct quarrying events by two different groups, probably in different time periods, and that the second round of quarrying might represent secondary quarrying of the deposits left by the earlier quarrying activity.

Although the chronology of the site is not fully understood because of a lack of dateable materials, a muskrat bone from the lower stratum of quarrying deposits along the eroded flank of the terrace gave a date of 2070 ± 30 rcy BP, suggesting a terminal Early Woodland to initial Middle Woodland association. The lower stratum also had produced a cordmarked bodysherd decorated with fine incised lines that stylistically corresponds to that time frame. Two other cordmarked bodysherds, one from the interface of the two strata and one from the upper stratum, appear to be Late Woodland. This evidence,



although not conclusive, tends to support that interpretation of quarrying by two groups in different time periods.

Artifact analysis, including a technological analysis of flake attributes, indicated that the very early stages of lithic reduction, specifically cobble testing, were the main activity at the site. For example, of a total of 1839 lithic artifacts, 130 (or over 7 percent) were tested cobbles. The flake analysis showed, among other things, that over 70 percent of the flakes had some cortex. Comparison of the flake data from Old Cedar South with those from other raw-material procurement and initial reduction sites showed that

reduction at Old Cedar South was strongly skewed in the direction of the very first reduction stages, specifically cobble testing.

The uncommonly large sample of tested cobbles allowed for a number of interesting observations. The tested cobbles ranged in maximum dimension from just over 40 mm to a bit more than 200 mm, averaging about 80 mm. Weight ranged from about 30 to almost 2,700 g, although most weighed under 300 g, and the average weight was in the range of 200 to 250 g (varying by assemblage). Perhaps most interesting, the number of flake removals ranged from 1 to 9, and averaged between 2 and 3.4 (also varying by assemblage). A number of tested cobbles were of raw materials that are not suited to lithic reduction. These pieces, however, tended to resemble flakeable raw materials on their weathered surfaces. This observation could have some interesting implications for the process of cobble selection, as well as for the presence of small amounts of non-standard raw materials in lithic assemblages at some sites. In general, the set of tested cobbles merits further analysis.



A lithologic study was applied to a rock sample from the site to determine the types of lithic raw materials present in the cobble-rich deposit (Bakken 2018). This technique was developed by regional geologists to study the distribution of various glacial deposits, their provenance, the degree to which different till bodies were mixed, and to assist with correlation of till units. It involves sorting grains from the sample into general rock categories that are associated with broad geologic provinces. In this case, the study was applied to pebbles and cobbles rather than very-coarse sand grains. The results showed that till, bedrock, and unconsolidated local deposits contributed to the cobble-rich deposit at the site. Further, it indicates

that rocks from tills of Superior, Riding Mountain and Winnipeg provenance are all represented in the deposit. Prairie du Chien Chert (the most abundant raw material) and the Sioux Quartzite Group materials come from essentially local sources. The Animikie Silicate Group, Knife Lake Siltstone, and Lake Superior Rhyolite come from tills of Superior provenance, and originated some distance to the northeast. Red River Chert, Swan River Chert, Tongue River Silica, and the Western River Gravels Group come from Des Moines lobe tills of Riding Mountain or Winnipeg provenance, and originated some distance to the northwest. Other flakeable raw materials were present but could not be tied to a specific source region.

Bakken, Kent

2018 Analysis of the General Lithology and Toolstone Components of a Quarried Cobble and Gravel Deposit at 21HE483. Appendix A in *Additional Phase II Evaluation at Site 21HE483 for the Replacement of a Parking Lot Adjacent to the Long Meadow Bridge in Hennepin County, MN*. Report of Investigation 126. Prepared for the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

Big Rice in Superior National Forest

Travis Armstrong's thesis in the graduate program in applied archaeology at California State University, San Bernardino, is an interdisciplinary examination of tribal life at an ancient wild rice camp after the signing of the treaties of the 1800s. At a lake in the Superior National Forest, the stories come in many forms. They are buried in the earth as artifacts. They are documented in historical records. And they live on in the testimony of the Ojibwe people who see this place as a cultural landscape important to their living community and heritage. They have gathered wild rice there for generations.



White Clay Pipes

What can archaeological, historical and tribal knowledge tell us about what this place was like after the arrival of the first explorers, the mixing of prehistoric and historical technologies, and why this remote place – six miles from the nearest paved road – merits recognition as an Ojibwe traditional cultural property on the National Register of Historic Places?

This site has already received scientific notice, with excavations there in the 1980s and 2000s. Academic works focus on the prehistoric materials left behind by a series of indigenous peoples. One study analyzed more than 50,000 pieces of pottery, many associated with parching wild rice kernels during food processing, to suggest 2,000 years of wild rice production at Big Rice. Another study dated charred

wild rice kernels from this parching to 50 B.C. But understudied are tribal artifacts that came after European contact and after the Ojibwe signed treaties with the federal government.

Historical documents also detail the significance of wild rice production there. At least until the 1920s Ojibwe mothers were giving birth to children there in wigwams during ricing season. Newspaper articles from the early 20th century contain reports of extended stays during ricing season and fleets of birch-bark canoes leaving using the system of lakes and rivers.

Tribal testimony adds to the picture of Ojibwe life here. It also demonstrates the past, present and future significance of this place to the cultural identity of the Ojibwe people. “In native discourse, the local landscape falls neatly and repeatedly into places – and places, as Franz Boas (1934) emphasized some years ago, are social constructions par excellence” (Keith Basso 1996). This site forms one of the places on the broader Ojibwe landscape where its social construct has led to differing meanings for tribal citizens than what others might see.

Armstrong (BA, University of St. Thomas; MA, anthropology, Temple University, and JD, UCLA School of Law) is an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Reservation Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (Pillager Band, Loon clan) and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Archaeologist for a tribal government in Southern California. Email: armstrong2000@lawnet.ucla.edu.



Rice Jigging Pit



Sawed Off Moose Bone Scraper and Tooth

Upcoming Events

2020 Lake Superior Basin Workshop

March 20-21, 2020

Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada

For more information or to get on the email list, see Sue Mulholland, tel: 218-355-0153, email: suemulholland@aol.com.

CMA General Meeting and Elections

February 29, 2020 (Exact Time TBA, Afternoon)

Saint Cloud State University (Exact Building TBA)

Elections for Vice President will be held at this meeting. Anastasia Walhovd, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, will give a presentation on Tribal Government.

Deadline for Submissions for the Summer CMA Newsletter

Mid-May 2020

Please send your submissions to Anastasia Walhovd, Anastasia.walhovd@gmail.com.

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.