

A Letter from the President of the Council for Minnesota Archaeology

The Importance of Communication, Community and Re-connecting

Fellow CMA members.

As each of us move through the summer field season we are pulled in various directions completing research, teaching, compliance work, and outreach. We focus our work on the needs of the student, client, or the public or all three when they intertwine. However, we often do not take the opportunity to connect with our own community of archaeologists and avocationalists. Sure, we gather on occasion to have a conference, or a few of us meet online (and I hope soon in-person) to do the work of the Council, but typically we rush back to our offices and hunker back into the work at hand.

I encourage everyone over the summer to check-in, communicate and re-connect. This may be as simple as providing information for an upcoming newsletter, posting materials to the CMA listserv or website, or even reaching out by text or phone to a colleague you have lost touch with. A few of us have had the poignant opportunity to say hello again at recent gatherings for LeRoy and Guy. We need to be a better community so we are prepared to work together when we must, for the betterment of the profession. Our community is small; many of us work in competing circles, and gossip and rumor can fly.

If you can meet with other archaeologists, do so. As things reopen grab a beverage or some food, and just talk. Share your frustrations, yes – but also your successes. I often have clients, friends, and members of public at large come up and ask me, “I heard they are doing archaeology at so-and-so, are you working there?” It’s hard for us to each be an ambassador for all archaeology, but if we pull together, we can collectively inform and enrich ourselves and those around us.

Before the end of the month, I hope to gather with a few archaeologists local to the St. Paul area at Waldmann’s and just relax if we can. We do not need to share the confidential information of our work, but just reconnecting will invariably help us to find common cause in our shared vocation. How else do we improve our methods, research questions, and profession – if we do not share what works and what has not?

Finally, and in a similar bent, the first calls for participants in this year’s Minnesota Archaeology Month (September) have recently been made on the CMA listserv. The mission of Archaeology month is to promote interest in archaeology and the role it plays in understanding Minnesota’s rich and diverse cultural heritage. There is ample opportunity for both in-person and virtual events this year (both have merit). Please consider hosting an event –

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



The next CMA meeting is **August 21** via **Zoom**.

Check your emails from the CMA listserv for more details about this meeting as they become available.

and getting information to Bruce by August 13th for inclusion in the published OSA calendar. I personally plan to lead a public archaeology weekend up in Pillager, an archaeological tour of the ongoing construction at Fort Snelling's Upper Post, as well as give a general talk on recent archaeological efforts at Father Hennepin Bluff Park. Pat Emerson annually hosted an event at Fort Snelling State Park – and I hope the mantle for this is taken up by MNHS and others.

Have fun out there, do good work, be safe, and connect as you can.



Jeremy Nienow
President, Council of Minnesota Archaeology
Owner, Nienow Cultural Consultants LLC
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A Letter from the Vice President

Hello all,

I hope you are having a busy and hard-working summer after the hummocky past year. Since the last newsletter we have been joined by two new members: Erin Dinneen and Laura Meier! Ms. Dinneen graduated with distinction with her BS in Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and studied for her MA in Anthropology at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks with a focus in bioarchaeology. She has been working for Hamline as their Archaeology Specialist Supervisor since 2019. Ms. Meier received her BA in Anthropology and French Studies with high distinction from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and returned there to study for her recently completed Masters in Heritage Studies and Public History. She currently works for 106 Group.

Congrats to our new members, it's great to have you on board!

Laura Koski, MSc, RPA
CMA Vice President
Zooarchaeo Consulting, LLC

An Update from the Secretary Treasurer

Fellow CMA Members,

Our membership numbers remain strong at 45 fully paid through the rest of the year. There are an additional 15 who were current on their dues through 2020. If you feel that you might be one of those 15 or would just like to confirm your active member status, please let me know. Our current account balance is a respectable \$3,450.77 after the awarding of two CMA student prizes (total \$500.00) and of a Riaz Malik Research Grant (\$1,880.00). I have responded to two questions through our website's contact page since our last CMA meeting. One was to help a member of the public identify an object and to find experts in our network of professionals for further help. The other message was a comment on improving the content of our website. Both have been addressed by our members. I will continue to monitor these comments as quickly as possible during our busy summer season. I encourage anyone with questions to use that contact page or to email me directly with questions that I can answer or that I can send to the best person to answer it for you. Best wishes to all of you until we meet again in late September!

Fred Sutherland, Ph.D., RPA
CMA Secretary/Treasurer
Fsuthy@gmail.com

**Mailed checks for dues
should be sent to:**

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



Announcements

An Update from the Office of the State Archaeologist

This update is derived from an email sent by OSA to the CMA listserv on 5/15/2021. The mentioned attachments will be included in the email attachment sent with the electronic PDF version of this newsletter.

Greetings –

First, the OSA's Annual Summary (July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020) is now available.

Second, an updated archaeological Phase I application form is available in the attachments sent with this newsletter. This revised form asks the applicant to identify whether the project is located within a recorded archaeological site, provides more room to describe the project, methods, and mapping, and hopefully fixes some form-related glitches.

Third, the OSA has compiled a list of questions received by OSA and MHS regarding licensing. Again, I want to reiterate that the OSA is not the sole entity involved in developing the licenses. Per MS 138.36, Subd. 1, OSA and MHS

develop the licenses and the licensing process together. Therefore, OSA cannot put anything into a license or the process unless MHS agrees, and MHS cannot put anything into the license and licensing process unless OSA agrees.

Many of the license changes relate to issues the OSA and MHS encountered over the last several years regarding fieldwork and curation. The previous licensing process also had some significant shortcomings. Two specific defects relate to:

1. Technological advancements have changed how archaeological fieldwork using LiDAR, drones, geophysical surveys, etc.
 - a. The previous license applications gave no guidance on incorporating emerging and developing technologies into fieldwork and no way for the OSA and MHS to track this kind of work on public land.
2. Tracking archaeological investigations on public land
 - a. By issuing annual blanket licenses, the OSA and MHS often did not receive the information we needed to track archaeological work on public land. For example, per the previous annual licenses, PIs were supposed to let the OSA know where they were working before entering the field. Some PIs were very good at this, some usually did it (often after the fact), and some never let us know where they were working until we received their January summaries.
 - b. This deficiency has also impacted the curation of artifact assemblages. Without tracking or reporting, neither MHS nor OSA has been able to maintain up-to-date records and archives. This inability to track work conducted on public land has significantly impacted MHS's ability to plan for the intake of assemblages and curation. Additionally, MHS has seen an increase in collections not being reported and stored long-term at private practices and institutions. In some situations, this has resulted in collections from public land being abandoned with no record that those assemblages ever existed. I have attached a document containing licensing questions and answers. I will continue to collect questions, update this list, and either post it on the OSA website or periodically email it.

Although the licensing form looks different, and we have changed from annual blanket Phase I licenses to project-specific Phase I licenses to align with the statute, most of the license and conditions remain the same. Of the 29 Conditions, only ten are new. Attached at the end of this newsletter is the updated license with **the OLD Conditions highlighted** – corresponding previous conditions are in the comments.

Added conditions include an understanding that:

1. The licensee must comply with the conditions of the licenses.
2. The information submitted on the license is accurate and up to date.
3. The licensed PI is responsible for the work of their subordinates.
4. MHS and OSA will consult with MIAC.
5. If work is on Federal land, the archaeologist must communicate directly with the federal land management agency.
6. The license only applies to the location(s) specified on the license.
7. The Principal Investigator will inform OSA and MHS if materials, samples, or data are processed or analyzed by entities other than that with which the principal investigator is associated.
8. Presentations and publications about publicly owned archaeological sites need to be submitted to the OSA for inclusion in the Minnesota Archaeological site files;
9. Upon completion, the archaeologist will submit GIS data showing where they conducted their fieldwork on public land.

10. Circumstances might arise in the future that could necessitate modifications to the Conditions, including the addition or removal of conditions (e.g., The removal of Condition 29, when the COVID crisis ends).

Please also be aware the Commissioner of the Department of Administration delivered an important Order relating to a court case that began in 2019. The case involved Minnesota archaeological statutes and professional ethics and was between the OSA and a consultant. Monday, May 10, 2021, was the deadline for the consultant to appeal this Order in the Minnesota Court of Appeals. The consultant did not appeal, so the Order stands as the “final agency decision” in the matter. This Final Order impacts Minnesota archaeology and is public information.

In closing, I have heard a rumor that a push for a legislative audit of the OSA is underway. I fully support this action if people think the OSA is not operating appropriately. The changes to the licenses were made based on lessons learned during the above-mentioned court case; to address the deficiencies discussed at the beginning of this email so the licenses and process more closely align with state statutes. The licensing changes included *significant* legal counsel from the Department of Administration General Counsel, Minnesota Historical Society legal team, and the Attorney General’s Office. If you support or oppose a legislative audit of the OSA you can contact the audit committee at:

- (Chair) Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer Sen.Mary.Kiffmeyer@senate.mn / (LA) Christina Wilson christina.wilson@senate.mn
- Sen. Matt Klein sen.matt.klein@senate.mn / (LA) Amanda Pedersen amanda.pedersen@senate.mn
- Sen. Mark Koran sen.mark.koran@senate.mn / (LA) Jesse McCardell jesse.mcardell@senate.mn
- Rep. Sondra Erickson rep.Sondra.Erickson@house.mn / (LA) Kacie Petersen kacie.petersen@house.mn
- Rep. Rick Hansen rep.rick.hansen@house.mn / (LA) Adam Kopel Adam.Kopel@house.mn
- Rep. Tina Liebling rep.tina.liebling@house.mn / (LA) Krysta Niedernhofer krysta.niedernhofer@house.mn

Amanda Gronhovd
State Archaeologist

Minnesota Archaeology Research Grants

**Riaz Malik Research Grant Program
2021-2022 Academic Year**

**Council for Minnesota Archaeology
Applications are Accepted on a Rolling Deadline**

The CMA offers semi-annual research grants to support projects advancing 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, awards have typically not exceeded \$800. If the project requires more than \$800, we still encourage you to apply. Student projects have priority. If no viable student applications are received, the grant is available to CMA members. It is expected that grant recipients will publish their results in the CMA Newsletter, *The Minnesota Archaeologist* or other suitable format.

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. 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: Applications are accepted year-round. Please contact David Mather for more details.

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). Riaz passed away in 1993.

Research Briefs

NCC Leads Recent Archaeological Work at Father Hennepin Bluff Park

Jeremy Nienow – Nienow Cultural Consultants

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) plans to make improvements and modifications to Father Hennepin Bluff Park, the location of which has been recorded as 21HE0527 along Main Street SE in Minneapolis (St. Anthony), Minnesota. The planned park improvements include tree plantings, landscaping, a performance stage, and installation of new utilities. Nienow Cultural Consultants LLC (NCC) completed a Phase Ia Archaeological Literature Review and a Phase Ib Archaeological Survey in 2019. These efforts revealed the potential for subsurface historical cultural resources dating as far back as the 1850s when this portion of Main Street St. Anthony was known as Spooner's Row. Shovel testing identified large amounts of modern debris/fill overlaying natural soils in some locations along with potentially intact Buried A Horizon soils and 19th Century archaeological features in others.

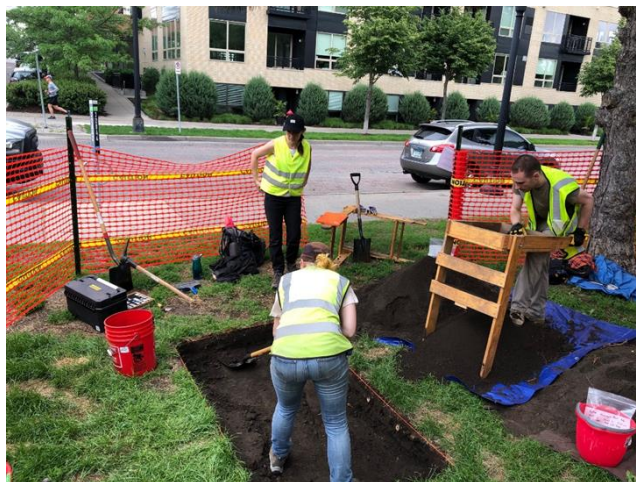
The MPRB completed its design process, and some proposed ground disturbing activities could impact archaeological features. The Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission required a Phase II archaeological assessment of applicable areas be completed and the MPRB contracted NCC to complete said assessment. NCC's project Principal Investigator was Jeremy Nienow, PhD., RPA. (MN OSA Phase II license 21-087). NCC subcontracted six individuals to assist in completing research, fieldwork, and lab processing for the project: Alex Hedquist (Hedquist Archaeological Consulting, LLC), Andrew Vang-Roberts (Vang-Roberts Consulting), Chris Rico (Rico Cultural Resource Management Services), Fred Sutherland (Sutherland Relics and Rust LLC), John Strot (John's

Archaeological Consulting), and Laura Koski (Zooarchaeo Consulting). Over the course of two very hot weeks, eleven shovel tests were completed along a utility corridor and three as follow-up tests along Main Street. Four test units (one 1x1m and three 1x2m) were completed at proposed infiltration areas. Test units were 1x1m or 1x2m and were excavated between 95 and 120cms.

Collectively, archaeological investigations documented significant impacts by 19th and 20th Century demolition, grading, and dumping episodes. The majority of the park has late 20th century fill layers over scattered 19th century demolition layers with historic A horizon soils absent (soil has been graded to the B horizon), as well as significant erosion along the bluff edge. However, along Main Street, NCC documented portions of two 19th century building foundations and pockets of buried, original A horizon. An updated site form has been submitted to the Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist for the site.



Archaeologists Chris Rico, John Strot, and Fred Sutherland (Right to Left) begin work on a control unit to document current 20th Century fill soils.



Archaeologists Alex Hedquist, Laura Koski, and Andrew Vang-Roberts (left to right) work on unit near Main Street which documented buried A Horizon soils beneath a 19th Century foundation/demolition layer.



Close up profile of unit south wall showing 20th century fill layers over 19th century demolition layer and finally a buried A Horizon.

A Unique Fishing Spear from the Manlick Farm Site

Casper Maul and Rob Mann – St. Cloud State University

In the fall of 2020, undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Anthropology at St. Cloud State University participated in our pandemic-abbreviated archaeological field school. The field school undertook the Morrison County Archaeological Survey Project, designed to locate and document previously unrecorded archaeological sites and field check and update previously recorded sites in the county. As part of this project, we recorded the presence of a mid-19th century to very early 20th century domestic site – the Manlick Farm Site. Historical documents (see Warner 2006) indicated this was the farmstead of Orin A. Coe and family. Coe reportedly came to Minnesota in 1838, worked as a missionary at Red Lake in 1844 and finally settled in Belle Prairie in 1853 or 1855. The Coe family occupied this property until about 1911. This date comports well with the archaeological materials recovered during our pedestrian survey of the Manlick Farm Site.

One unique artifact recovered during this survey was an iron fishing spear. The spear consists of the tang, which would have been slotted into a wooden shaft, the bolster, and one intact tine, as well as the bases for three missing tines (Figures 1 and 2). It appears to be hand forged. The spear measures 20.75 cm in length and weighs 360 grams.

Spearfishing has a long history in Minnesota, one that certainly stretches back into precolonial times. European settlers seemed particularly influenced by the Native American practices of torchlight spearfishing from canoes and darkhouse spearfishing through the ice. These indigenous spearfishing practices were recorded by early ethnographers and artists such as Henry Schoolcraft and Paul Kane (Bogue 2000; Kallok 2012). Early settlers, who brought their own spearfishing traditions with them to Minnesota, also adopted indigenous spearfishing techniques and today darkhouse fishing remains a popular winter activity in the state (Kallok 2012). While this is a largely positive example of intercultural borrowing and cultural hybridity within the historical context of settler colonialism, it should also be noted that the practice of indigenous spearfishing has recently been at the center of Ojibwe efforts to maintain their usufructuary rights on lands and waters ceded by treaties in the 19th century (see Milwaukee Public Museum 2021; Nesper 2002).

We are unaware of other iron fishing spears recovered from archaeological contexts in Minnesota, though there are several specimens housed in museums across the state (Todd Mahon personal



Figure 1. Manlick Farm Site Iron Spear. Photograph by Casper Maul.

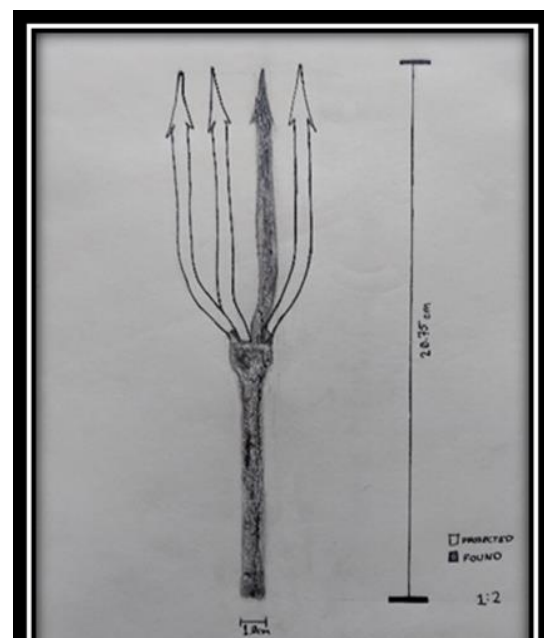


Figure 2. Hypothetical reconstruction of the Manlick Farm Site Iron Spear. Illustration by Casper Maul.

communication, 2020). Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we have not been able to examine any comparative specimens to date. If other researchers have additional information about fishing spears from historical contexts, we would love to hear from you.

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2006 *A Big Hearted Paleface Man: Nathan Richardson and the History of Morrison County, MN*. Morrison County Historical Society, Little Falls, MN.

Updates? Corrections?

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