

Minnesota Archaeology Month

(now virtual)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the decision was made to make Minnesota Archaeology Month a virtual event this year. Below is a list of events and programs that will give you the opportunity to participate in one time scheduled virtual programs or review previously recorded presentations at your convenience. However you participate we encourage you to virtually explore Minnesota's archeology.

Scheduled Events

Fiberglass Wrecks in Minnesota's Lakes –Zoom Webinar

Unique 20th Century Fiberglass Wrecks identified during sonar surveys and subsequent archaeological SCUBA reconnaissance will be presented and discussed by Ann Merriman and Chris Olson. Maritime Heritage Minnesota has determined these somewhat 'modern' wrecks are interesting and significant additions to the underwater archaeological record. Signup begins September 2.

Date: Tuesday, **September 8**, 7:00 pm

Sponsor: Maritime Heritage Minnesota

Location: <http://www.maritimeheritagemn.org/webinars.html>

Contact: Ann Merriman at mhm@maritimeheritagemn.org

Note: Webinar is free, donations welcome, register at the location above beginning September 2.

Steel and Aluminum Wrecks in Minnesota's Lakes – Zoom Webinar

Nineteenth and 20th Century Steel and Aluminum Wrecks identified during sonar surveys and subsequent archaeological SCUBA reconnaissance will be presented and discussed by Ann Merriman and Chris Olson. Maritime Heritage Minnesota has determined these smaller wrecks are interesting and significant additions to the underwater archaeological record. Signup begins September 2.

Date: Thursday, **September 10**, 7:00 pm

Sponsor: Maritime Heritage Minnesota

Location: <http://www.maritimeheritagemn.org/webinars.html>

Contact: Ann Merriman at mhm@maritimeheritagemn.org or 651-261-2265

Note: Webinar is free, donations welcome, register at the location above beginning September 2.

Unusual and Interesting Sites in Minnesota's Lakes – Zoom Seminar

Unusual, interesting, and often weird wrecks, maritime sites, and other anomalies identified during sonar surveys and subsequent archaeological SCUBA reconnaissance will be presented and discussed by Ann Merriman and Chris Olson. Maritime Heritage Minnesota has determined these unusual wrecks, maritime sites, simply weird and often one-off anomalies are interesting and significant additions to the underwater archaeological record. Signup begins September 2.

Date: Tuesday, **September 15**, 7:00 pm

Sponsor: Maritime Heritage Minnesota

Location: <http://www.maritimeheritagemn.org/webinars.html>

Contact: Ann Merriman at mhm@maritimeheritagemn.org or 651-261-2265

Note: Webinar is free, donations welcome, register at the location above beginning September 2.

Small Wooden Wrecks in Minnesota's Lakes – Zoom Webinar

Nineteenth and 20th Century Small Wooden Wrecks identified during sonar surveys and subsequent archaeological SCUBA reconnaissance will be presented and discussed by Ann Merriman and Chris Olson. Maritime Heritage Minnesota has determined these smaller wrecks are interesting and significant additions to the underwater archaeological record. Signup begins September 2.

Date: Tuesday, **September 22**, 7:00 pm

Sponsor: Maritime Heritage Minnesota

Location: <http://www.maritimeheritagemn.org/webinars.html>

Contact: Ann Merriman at mhm@maritimeheritagemn.org or 651-261-2265

Note: Webinar is free, donations welcome, register at the location above beginning September 2.

The Archaeology of Bear Ceremonialism

This presentation addresses the world wide concept of bear ceremonialism and, in the context of wildlife biology, a zooarchaeological study of bear remains from Minnesota.

Date: Tuesday, **September 22**, 7:00 pm

Sponsor: Morrison County Historical Society

Location: <http://morrisoncountyhistory.org/?p=8251>

Contact: Mary Warner at staff@morrisoncountyhistory.org

Note: This event will be held online via Zoom. Space is limited to 100 participants. Cost is \$10 + tax general admission, \$7 + tax for MCHS members. Register at <https://morrison-county-historical-society.square.site/> or by calling 320-632-4007. Registrations due by September 19.

Recent Archaeology in Scott County

Join archaeologist Jeremy L. Nienow, Ph.D., RPA as he gives a zoom presentation on recent archaeology completed in Scott County as part of the Metro Area Historical Society Collaborative (MAHSC). This work focused on two ghost towns in Helena Township in 2019 and early 2020. The presentation will consist of a video prepared for this talk followed by an open period for questions with Dr. Nienow. The work of the MAHSC has been funded in part by the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. Registration for this online event is required and limited to 50 attendees.

Date: Wednesday, **September 23**, 7:30 pm – 8:30pm

Sponsor: Scott County Historical Society

Location: <https://www.scottcountyhistory.org/events/recent-archaeology-in-scott-county>

Contact: To register for the zoom call please contact Rose James at RJJames@scottcountyhistory.org or the link above.

Large Wooden Wrecks in Minnesota's Lakes and Rivers – Zoom Webinar

Nineteenth and 20th Century Large Wooden Wrecks identified during sonar surveys and subsequent archaeological SCUBA reconnaissance will be presented and discussed by Ann Merriman and Chris Olson. Maritime Heritage Minnesota has determined these commercial and personal watercraft wrecks are interesting and significant additions to the underwater archaeological record. Signup begins September 2.

Date: Tuesday, **September 29**, 7:00 pm

Sponsor: Maritime Heritage Minnesota

Location: <http://www.maritimeheritagemn.org/webinars.html>

Contact: Ann Merriman at mhm@maritimeheritagemn.org or 651-261-2265

Note: Webinar is free, donations welcome, register at the location above beginning September 2.

Prerecorded Programs and Presentations

Bound by Earth: Archaeology in Minnesota

Bound by Earth: Archaeology in Minnesota focuses on the science and new technology archaeologists use to uncover and preserve archaeological resources in a non-invasive way, and how remaining evidence, such as Indian burial mounds, are still significant to Native people today. Produced in partnership with the Minnesota Archaeological Society with funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Location: <https://www.tpt.org/bound-by-earth-archaeology-in-minnesota/>

Lost and Found: the Archaeology of the John Orth and Germania Breweries

A paved parking lot and the lawns of a city park hide from sight the remains of two of Minneapolis' foremost breweries. In 1890, the John Orth and Germania breweries merged with two other breweries to form the Minneapolis Brewing Company (aka Grain Belt). This presentation provides an overview of the history of these breweries and how documentary and archaeological research led to the identification and evaluation of these sites. It also discusses how these significant discoveries were integrated into development plans. A presentation by Dr. Michelle M. Terrell of Two Pines Resource Group. Done for the State Historic Preservation Office Review and Compliance Cultural Resource Management Seminar in 2012.

Location: https://youtu.be/DLJE_XApcQo

The Archaeology of Architecture

Dr. Michelle M. Terrell of Two Pines Resource Group speaks about The Archaeology of Architecture at the 2013 Preserve Minnesota Conference held in Lanesboro, Minnesota. Terrell focuses on the types of information about structures that archaeologists regularly gather that would be of interest to heritage preservationists. What can archaeologists tell us about the buildings that were once a part of our communities? How can archaeology inform our understanding and improve our interpretation of existing historic buildings and their occupants?

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6aqDx-C6Nk>

It's Your History "The Archaeology of Anoka County"

Created in association with the Anoka County Historical Society on QCTV. A local production reviewing a project funded by legacy amendment funds to investigate archaeology for the Metro-Area Historical Society Collaborative. In this case they review archeology in Anoka County from a professional's perspective and also the effect archaeology has on development within the county. Guests include archaeologists Dr. Jeremy Nienow, Dr. Scott Anfinson and the Anoka County Board Chair Rhonda Siverajah.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqJKfw_Tbko

The Iberian Connection: Constructing the Solutrean Solution

Dr. Dennis J. Stanford of the Smithsonian Institution was the featured speaker at the 2008 Nobel Conference held at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. He spoke on the initial peopling of North America and a possible European Solutrean connection.

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gpnr1jDvr5c>

Preserve Minnesota 2016: Beneath the Hastings Bridge, History and Archaeology

Archaeological investigations prompted by the construction of a new bridge over the Mississippi River at Hastings led to the discovery of two significant archaeological sites. Preserved beneath a parking lot and a highway approach, these sites contained evidence for some of the city's earliest businesses (groceries, saloons, and a hotel) as well as the destruction caused by the city's devastating 1899 Christmas Day Fire. The nearly 50,000 artifacts collected provide insight into the lives of the people that worked and lived in Hastings during the late 1800s. Your presenter is Dr. Michelle M. Terrell of Two Pines Resource Group.

Location:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2J1pUD3KC8&list=PLRrmlN6cO7LuolE6fis5u3hfaz934M-M &index=14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2J1pUD3KC8&list=PLRrmlN6cO7LuolE6fis5u3hfaz934M-M&index=14)

Archaeologist Conversation Series – Project Overview

This video is an interview/presentation on the work Nienow Cultural Consultants has completed for the Metro Area Historical Society Collaborative over the past year in Dakota, Ramsey and Scott Counties primarily examining alpha archaeological sites. The interview was done by Barry Madore of Fire on the Bluff Productions with archaeologist Jeremy L. Nienow, Ph.D., RPA. The video also highlights how the MAHSC was conceived of and their earlier archaeological efforts over the past five years. The MAHSC is funded in part through grants from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. This is the first of the series of conversations completed for the project.

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct6VCZim0Ro>

Archaeologist Conversation Series – Dakota County

This video is an interview/presentation on the work Nienow Cultural Consultants has completed for the Metro Area Historical Society Collaborative over the past year in Dakota, Ramsey and Scott Counties primarily examining alpha archaeological sites. The interview was done by Barry Madore of Fire on the Bluff Productions with archaeologist Jeremy L. Nienow, Ph.D., RPA. The video specifically highlights MAHSC work in Dakota County at two prehistoric and two historic sites. The MAHSC is funded in part through grants from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. This is one of the series of conversations completed for the project.

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh3Vd2Bc9Zo&t=279s>

Archaeologist Conversation Series – Ramsey County

This video is an interview/presentation on the work Nienow Cultural Consultants has completed for the Metro Area Historical Society Collaborative over the past year in Dakota, Ramsey and Scott Counties primarily examining alpha archaeological sites. The interview was done by Barry Madore of Fire on the Bluff Productions with archaeologist Jeremy L. Nienow, Ph.D., RPA. The video specifically highlights MAHSC work in Ramsey County at the Gibbs Farm and in the Fish Creek Nature Preserve. The MAHSC is funded in part through grants from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. This is one of the series of conversations completed for the project.

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWAwWB93LAW&t=8s>

The Jones Iron Furnace Site

A slide presentation on the results of a remote sensing survey on an iron smelting furnace ruin near Aitkin, Minnesota by archaeologist Fred Sutherland of Sutherland's Relics and Rust. From the Council for Minnesota Archaeology Conference at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. February 14th, 2015.

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAYnHe-IFbA>

1997 Excavations at the Nina Clifford Site.

Since 1999, the Science Museum of Minnesota has stood on the site of what was once St. Paul's "red light" district. Prior to the museum's construction, archaeologists unearthed artifacts and remnants of 19th century buildings, including the brothel owned by Nina Clifford, which was demolished in 1937. (NOTE - The poor image quality is due to this video being sort of an excavated remnant itself. It was uploaded from a DVD copy of a VCR recording from cable TV.)

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG6Baekh_wk

Great Lakes Archaic Indians: The Origins of Prehistoric Metal Technology in Eastern North America.

Old Copper The Old Copper Industry: 4000 to 1000 B.C. A presentation by Dr. Thomas Pleger, Great Lakes Archaeologist and President of Lake Superior State University, at the Copper and Culture Conference on Prehistoric Metal Working in the Lake Superior Region, August 2015, sponsored by the Copper Country Ancient Sites Conservancy.

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmjms3JiS1s>

Prehistoric America, Lifestyles of the Recent and Distant Past

From the Westonka Historical Society a video of a presentation by archaeologist Dean Sather titled Prehistoric America, Lifestyles of the Recent and Distant Past. Mr. Sather provides an overview of archeology and the culture history of North America and then entertains a series of questions.

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgLx0BzbEhw>

Ancient Footpaths traced by Ground Penetrating Radar at Petaga Point

A presentation by David Maki, Archaeo-Physics. This is from the State Historic Preservation Office Review and Compliance Cultural Resource Management Seminar in 2012. Maki interprets the geophysical data gathered at the site which helps to identify the location of previous excavations at the site and the presence of a series of foot paths which may date to the Precontact occupation of the site.

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVWquiSVM4c>

Grant Goltz: Rethinking Blackduck Pottery

A Lakeland PBS production where experimental archaeologist Grant Goltz shares his theory, developed with others, of how pre-contact indigenous people of our area made multi-functional Blackduck pottery, with a group of First Nations Women from Winnipeg, Canada. While Goltz's hands-on discoveries often don't gain acceptance with established academia in the U.S., his experience and knowledge is greatly respected across the border by our neighbors to the North.

Location: <https://lptv.org/grant-goltz-rethinking-blackduck-pottery/>

Birchbark Canoe - Creating a Replica of an 1860's Ojibwe Canoe

A production of Lakeland PBS. Grant Goltz and friends build a 15 foot birchbark canoe using traditional materials.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFSjKRnUzVo&feature=emb_rel_pause

Common Ground 205 – Flint Knapper, Tom Kulju (Pt 1) and Common Ground 206 – Tom Kulju Flint Knapper (Pt 2)

In the first episode Tom Kulju, a Flint Knapper from Longville who creates stone tools that are both functional and aesthetically beautiful shows some of the things he creates while flintknapping, both traditional and contemporary items. In the second episode Kulju show how the art of flintknapping is actually done and works on creating a stone tool.

Location Part 1: <https://lptv.org/common-ground-205-flint-knapper-tom-kulju/>

Location Part 2: <https://lptv.org/common-ground-206-tom-kulju-flint-knapper-pt-2-lucille-utecht-gardner/>

Web Sites

HistoryXR

The University of Minnesota (UMN) is building a new platform for the various virtual reality/augmented reality programs under development at UMN. Not all will be archaeological per se. But the initial projects are focused on Fort Snelling. Virtual MISLS is a virtual tour of the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. During World War II, the MISLS trained soldiers in the Japanese language to aid the war effort. Since then, many of buildings have fallen into disrepair. We created this virtual tour to enable people to immerse themselves in a part of history that is often under-represented at Fort Snelling. Of note, only the Virtual MISLS app is available right now. We have one that encompasses the broader landscape in the works, but our programmer is a student who is interning elsewhere, so it's on hold right now. Keep visiting this site for new material.

Location: <https://historyxr.umn.edu/>

Minnesota Historical Society Collections Online

You can explore the collections at the Minnesota Historical Society virtually. You enter what you are looking for in the search box. A search for the term “archaeology” turns up an interesting mix of items including a 1996 Archaeology Week button held in the collection. Other searches for “projectile point” turn up items from the comparative projectile point collection or “Fort Snelling Artifact” included items recovered archaeologically from Fort Snelling. The search is not limited to only artifacts, but includes documents, photographs, and records. Lots of things to discover here. I entered my surname in the search box and found a recorded interview of a distant family member.

Location: <https://search.mnhs.org/index.php?brand=mhs>

Whitewater State Park

The Park has a web page that shares the stories and videos about the human history of Whitewater State Park.

Location: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/whitewater/whitewater-state-park-history.html

Check for updates and additions to this list on the Office of the State Archaeologist web site at:
<https://mn.gov/admin/archaeologist/the-public/events/archaeology-month/>