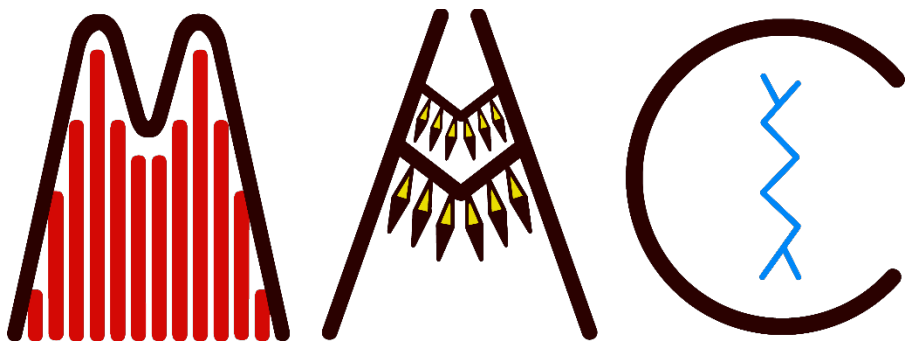


69th Annual Midwest Archaeological Conference



**October 8-10th, 2026
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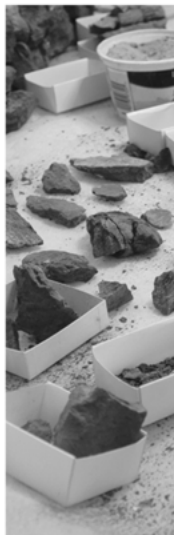
The Council for Minnesota Archaeology (CMA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting archaeological research and interpretation in the State of

Minnesota. Membership is open to students, professionals, and Native Americans with an on-going research interest in Minnesota archaeology.

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Organizer's acknowledgments

The organizers gratefully acknowledge the efficient and patient help of the Board of Directors. Thanks are due as well to Caylee Steene, Brian Sather, and Patty Blom from the Mayo Clinic Health System

Event Center for their rapid responses and flexibility in accommodating the planning. We also thank Victoria Leonard from the Hilton Garden Inn and Ismary Theisen from the Arch & Cable and the Hotel Alexander for working with us through some challenging times for accommodations in downtown Mankato.

Cover Image: Late Woodland Vessel (1050 CE) recovered from 21NLAE (Johnson Island).

MAC 2026 Logo Information:

The logo for this year's MAC was designed by Mr. Chaske Henry. Mr. Henry is an Indigenous artist with ancestry in the Oglalla Lakota, Santee Dakota, and Leech Lake Ojibwe communities. In addition to graphic arts, he is also a lead singer with the Toka Maza drum group, and the Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for the Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mr. Henry's inspiration for the logo is drawn from traditional Dakota symbolic designs seen in bead and quill work, pottery, and other sacred markings in the Dakota homelands. The design elements reference Wakinyan, Thunderer, a powerful and untamable upperworld spirit being.

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Welcome to Mankato! Historic downtown Mankato occupies part of the floodplain of Glacial River Warren. The uplands to the south of the city are largely covered by clay deposits from Glacial Lake Minnesota, the eastern arm of which likely catastrophically drained, forming the Cannon River, while drainage of the main body of the lake accounts for the Blue Earth River, just west of downtown. The landscape is, however, dominated by evidence of the dramatic outburst floods from Glacial Lake Agassiz, through Glacial River Warren, which formed the valley of today's Minnesota River.

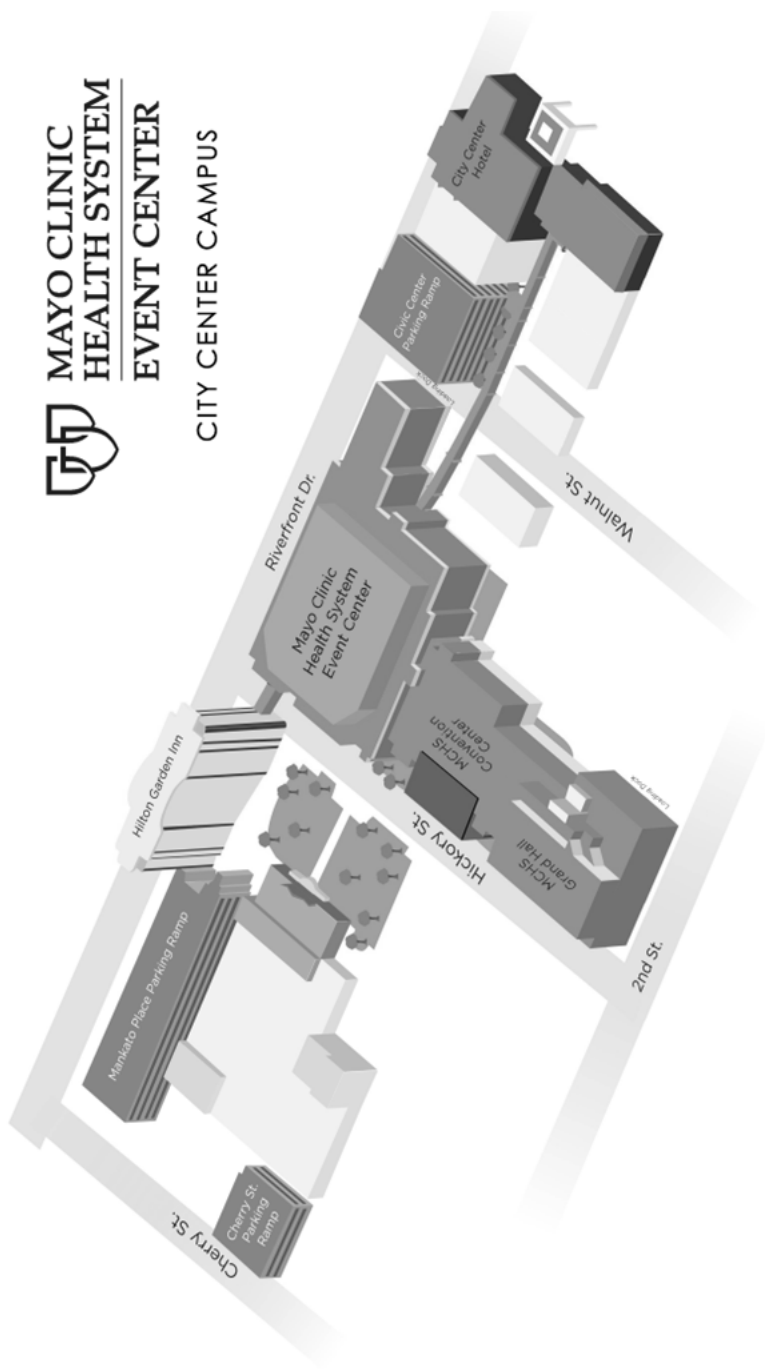
While the complex glacial and post-glacial history of the greater Mankato area has not yet been well studied, it is nevertheless safe to say that it laid the foundation for how humans have used this landscape in the subsequent 12,000 years. Multiple rivers approach here from the northwest, south, and southeast, and vast numbers of large and small lakes across the region draining toward and away from here created not only access to Mankato from many directions, but also an incredible diversity of habitats and resources. Consequently, the archeology of the Mankato region is similarly complex, and represents a "culturetone", in the same sense as an environmental ecotone, between the prairies to the south and west and the woodlands to the east and north.

Today as in the past, the environmental and historical crossroads these processes formed continue to put Mankato at an important location. We encourage you to take some time and visit the many county and state parks around here on your way home. We especially encourage you to visit Jeffers Petroglyphs (<https://www.mnhs.org/jefferspetroglyphs>) if you are heading west, and Grand Meadow Chert Quarry (<https://mowercountyhistory.org/locations/the-grand-meadow-chert-quarry/the-quarry-story/>) if you are heading east.



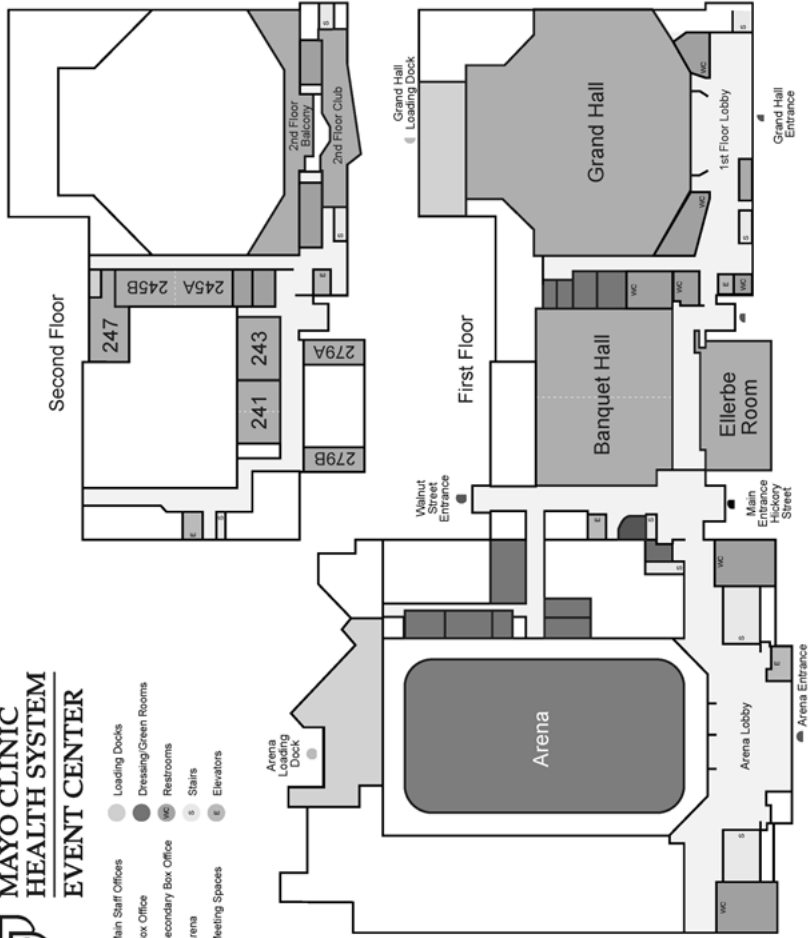
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List of Events

Registration

Registration and conference help will be available from 5:30pm to 7:30p.m. in the Ellerbe Room on Thursday, and from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Registration Desk in the 2nd floor lobby of the Event Center.

Excursions

Tour to Belle Creek Heritage Preserve. Tour group must assemble **by 8:45 a.m.** at the Mayo Clinic Health Systems Event Center Main Entrance on Hickory Street. Departure will be at 9:00 a.m. *sharp*. An early departure is possible if all registered group members are present before the departure time. Tour group will return to the Event Center by 3:00pm.

Meetings

MAC Inc., Board of Directors Lunch Meeting (by invitation only)

Friday, October 9th

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Mankato Hilton Garden Inn Meeting Room 909

MAC Inc., Business Meeting

Friday, October 9

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Event Center Room 243

Receptions

Evening reception, Thursday, October 8

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Event Center Ellerbe Room

Substantial Appetizers and Cash Bar

Evening reception, Friday, October 9

5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Event Center 2nd Floor Club

Substantial Appetizers and Cash Bar

Evening reception and Awards Ceremony, Saturday, October 10

5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Event Center Ellerbe Room

Substantial Appetizers and Cash Bar

Brief Schedule

Thursday, October 8

Reception Desk 5:30 – 7:30pm Ellerbe Room

Welcome Reception: 6:00 – 9:00pm Ellerbe Room

Friday, October 9

Reception Desk 7:00am – 4:00pm Event Center 2nd floor lobby

Coffee, Mini Muffins, and Donut Holes – 7:45am 2nd floor lobby

Vendor Booths 8:00am – 5:00pm Room 247

Jeffers Petroglyphs Display 9:00am – 5:00pm Room 279A

Minnesota Legacy Symposium Part I 9:00 – 11:45am Room 243

Student Workshop: Geophysics 10:00 – 11:00am Room 241

Oneota Archaeology Symposium 10:30 – 11:45am Room 245A

Lunch Break 11:45am – 1:30pm

MAC Board Luncheon 12:00 – 1:30pm Hilton Board Room 909

Legacy Symposium Part II 1:30 – 3:30 Room 243

CRM Perspectives Panel 1:30 – 3:30pm Room 245A

Minnesota Radiocarbon Dating Workshop 1:30 – 3:30pm Room 241

MAC Business Meeting 4:00 – 5:00pm Room 243

Evening Reception 5:00 – 9:00 2nd Floor Club

Saturday, October 10

Reception Desk 7:00am – 4:00pm Event Center 2nd floor lobby

Coffee, Mini Muffins, and Donut Holes – 7:45am 2nd floor lobby

Vendor Booths 8:00am – 5:00pm Room 247

Jeffers Petroglyphs Display 9:00am – 5:00pm Room 279A

Belle Creek Heritage Preserve Tour 9:00am departure

Jeffers Petroglyphs Display 9:00am – 5:00pm Room 279A

General Paper Session I 9:00 – 11:45 Room 243

General Poster Session I 9:00 – 11:45 Room 245A

Lunch Break 11:45am – 2:00pm

General Paper Session II 2:00 – 4:00pm Room 243

General Poster Session II 2:15 – 5:00pm Room 245A

Threats to Preservation Panel – 3:00 – 5:00pm Room 241

Evening Reception 5:00 – 9:00pm Ellerbe Room

Detailed Schedule

Friday, October 9

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Friday: Exhibit

Jeffers Petroglyphs Traveling Panel Exhibit

Room 279A

9:00 AM - 11:45 AM Friday: Symposium

Ground Breaking: The Legacy Amendment and the Impact of Investing in Minnesota Archaeology Part I

Organizers: Katy J. Mollerud (Minnesota Historical Society)

Room 243

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 9:00 AM | Minnesota's Archaeological Renaissance from the 2008 Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment: Introduction and Recent Projects
David Mather (Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office) |
| 9:15 AM | Origins and Initial Accomplishments of Minnesota's Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites
Scott Anfinson (Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist, Retired) |
| 9:30 AM | Minnesota's Legacy Amendment Contributions to Prehistoric Archaeology
Michael G. Michlovic (Emeritus, Minnesota State University, Moorhead) |
| 9:45 AM | A Tale of Two Counties: Statewide Archaeological Survey of Kittson and Wilkin Counties in the Red River of the North
Abraham Ledezma (In Situ Archaeological Consulting),
Craig Picka (In Situ Archaeological Consulting) |
| 10:00 AM | Todd County Archaeological Survey: Expectations, Results, and Value of Broad County Survey |

- Joe Pnewski (Area M Consulting, LLC)
- 10:15 AM What a Legacy It Is! Findings from Many Investigations**
Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)
- 10:30 AM Break**
- 10:45 AM Understanding the Radiocarbon Record: How Legacy Funding Helps**
Linda Scott Cummings (PaleoResearch Institute)
- 11:00 AM New Radiocarbon Dates from the Pedersen Site at Lake Benton, Minnesota**
Edward P. Fleming (Science Museum of Minnesota), Charles E. Umbanhowar (St. Olaf College)
- 11:15 AM The Archaic Tradition in Central Minnesota: Stone tool Economies and Technologies**
Dan Wendt (Science Museum of Minnesota), Jasmine Koncur (Science Museum of Minnesota), Edward P. Fleming (Science Museum of Minnesota)
- 11:30 AM Archaeology for Whom? Insights from the 2024 Statewide Survey Project at the Minnesota State Capitol**
Christopher E-W Rico (Braun Intertec Corporation)

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Friday: Workshop

Non-Intrusive and Less-Intrusive Methods: How Geophysics and Geospatial Technologies are Used in Archeology

Organizers: Kylie Johnson (Minnesota State University, Mankato)
Room 241

Workshop participants

Aaron Comstock (University of Cincinnati)

Amanda Butler (Binghamton University)

Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM Friday: Symposium

Recent Research in Oneota Archaeology

Organizers: Richard W. Edwards IV (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
Room 245A

**10:30 AM Oneota Settlement on the Door Peninsula of
Northeastern Wisconsin**

Robert Jeske (Jeske Archaeological Consultants, LLC),
Randy R. Dickson (Midwest Archaeological Consultants)

**10:45 AM Function and Form: A Use-Alteration Analysis of
Oneota Ceramics**

Catherine M. Lake (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

**11:00 AM Of Mice and Menetus: Fauna and Feature Function at
Koshkonong Creek Village**

Angelina R. Collura (University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee)

**11:15 AM Walk Times, Boundaries, and Identity: Oneota
Localities in Wisconsin**

Richard W. Edwards IV (University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee), Robert J. Jeske (Jeske Archaeological
Consultants, LLC)

**11:30 PM Placing the Belle Creek Archeological Site Complex
into the Red Wing region**

Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University,
Mankato)

11:45 PM - 1:30 PM Friday: Lunch

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Friday: Panel

CRM Perspectives, Relationships, and Consultation

Organizers: Eve A. Hargrave (NAGPRA Office, University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign)
Room 245A

Discussion participants

Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato)
Bobi Deere (Joe Deere Consulting LLC)
Eve A. Hargrave (NAGPRA Office, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
Franky Jackson (PIIC Tribal Historic Preservation Office)
Jack Rossen (Chronicle Heritage and Algonquin Consultants)
Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)
Tyrel Iron Eyes (SRST Tribal Historic Preservation Office)

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Friday: Symposium

Ground Breaking: The Legacy Amendment and the Impact of Investing in Minnesota Archaeology Part II

Organizers: Katy J. Mollerud (Minnesota Historical Society)
Room 243

1:30 PM Preliminary Results of Legacy-Funded Grand Marais Geoarcheological Survey

Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

1:45 PM Minnesota Legacy Amendment funded archaeological investigation and evaluation of the Munroe Logging Railroad Turntable Site (21CA804)

Fred Sutherland (HDR Engineering, Inc.)

2:00 PM Connecting Collections: Minnesota Legacy Amendment Archaeological Collections Inventory Projects at the Minnesota Historical Society

Steven Goranson (Minnesota Historical Society)

2:15 PM Minnesota's Legacy Unboxed: The Box-Level Inventory Project at the Minnesota Historical Society

Sarah Wood (Minnesota Historical Society), Kyle Lundin (Minnesota Historical Society), Sophie Minor (Minnesota Historical Society), Katy J. Mollerud

(Minnesota Historical Society)

2:30 PM

Break

2:45 PM

**The Impact of Legacy Funding at the Grand Meadow
Chert Quarry/Wanhi Yukan**

Tom Trow (Mower County Historical Society), Franky
Jackson (PIIC Tribal Historic Preservation Office)

3:00 PM

Open Discussion Section

David Mather (Minnesota State Historic Preservation
Office)

3:15 PM

Open Discussion Section Continued

David Mather (Minnesota State Historic Preservation
Office)

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Friday: Workshop

Radiocarbon Dating in Minnesota

Organizers: Linda Scott Cummings (PaleoResearch Institute), R. A. Varney
(PaleoResearch Institute)

Room 241

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Friday: Meeting

MAC Business Meeting

Room 243

Saturday, October 10

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday: Exhibit

Jeffers Petroglyphs Traveling Panel Exhibit

Room 279A

9:00 AM - 11:45 AM Saturday: Paper Session

General Paper Session I

Room 243

9:00 AM

**Spirit Stone “Keskamzit” Art Found at a Riverton
Culture Habitation, c. 3,600 B.P.**

Mark L. Madsen (Chicago Archaeological Society, SSAS,

and IAAA)

9:15 AM

Fast and Furious: Field Photogrammetry for Neophytes

Sarah Busch (Minnesota State University, Mankato),
Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University,
Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State
University, Mankato)

9:30 AM

**The Repatriation of Lakota Names, Martin Charger,
and the Dakota Conflict of 1862**

William Kurtz (Bureau of Indian Affairs)

9:45 AM

**Ground Truthing- Comparing The Results of the
Geophysics and Excavations From 21GD200 The
Belle Creek Village**

Jackson T. Davis (Minnesota State University, Mankato),
Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University,
Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State
University, Mankato)

10:00 AM

**Geophysical Evidence of Agriculturally Induced
Erosional Damage at Mississippian Sites in the
Central Illinois River Valley**

Tyler Ferree (Illinois State Archaeological Survey),
Gregory Wilson (University of California Santa Barbara),
John Lambert (Illinois State Archaeological Survey)

10:15 AM

Break

10:30 AM

**Moths to a Flame: Illuminating Minnesota's Elusive
Early Woodland Component at the Moth Whisper
Site (21WB151)**

Kylee Glen (Minnesota Historical Society), Matthew
Radermacher (Minnesota Historical Society)

10:45 AM

**Reevaluating Ceramic Assemblages through Pottery
Refit Analysis: A Fort Ancient Case Study from
Southwest Ohio**

Jamie L. Inman (University of Louisville), Aaron
Comstock (University of Cincinnati)

- 11:00 AM** **21BK0153: A Multicomponent Site at the Toad Lake Public Water Access in Becker County, Minnesota**
Josh Anderson (Minnesota Historical Society), Kaelyn Olson (Minnesota Historical Society), Emily Walter (Minnesota Historical Society)
- 11:15 AM** **sUAS Survey following Drawdown at Lake Bronson State Park, Kittson County, Minnesota**
Kat Rocheford (Minnesota Historical Society), Jared Langseth (Minnesota Historical Society, MN Department of Natural Resources), Kaelyn Olson (Minnesota Historical Society, MN Department of Natural Resources), Jennifer C. Rankin (Minnesota Historical Society)
- 11:30 AM** **Shared Ground, Changing Responses: A Comparative Evaluation of Geophysical Methods for Historic Cemetery Investigations**
Joseph E.B. Snider (Terracon Consultants, Inc.), Alexander C. Corkum (Terracon Consultants, Inc.)

9:00 AM - 11:45 AM Saturday: Poster Session

General Poster Session I

Room 245A

From Census To Database: The Work Behind a Community Based Deep Map

Eliot Palmer (North Dakota State University), Kristen R. Fellows (North Dakota State University), Angela J. Smith (North Dakota State University)

Bringing Peach Orchard (33HA19) Back into the Fort Ancient Landscape: Preliminary Results from Southwest Ohio

Grace E. Conrad (Ohio State University), Robert A. Cook (Ohio State University), Aaron Comstock (University of Cincinnati), Bailey R. Raab (Binghamton University)

Rethinking the Limits of Suspended Cooking: Morphology and Mechanical Feasibility in Fort Ancient Jars

Jamie L. Inman (University of Louisville), Aaron Comstock (University of Cincinnati)

Building Minnesota's First Synoptic Osteology Reference Collection

Maria Heinzen (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Dakota Rowsey (Science Museum of Minnesota), Catherine Early (Science Museum of Minnesota)

Herman Kruzel's Ax Found Near Sauk Trail in Chicago Heights, Illinois

Mark L. Madsen (Chicago Archaeological Society, SSAS, and IAAA)

New Information from Old Excavations: The 2026 Excavations at the Noble-Wieting Cultural Site

Michael Grabrick (University of Minnesota-Morris), B. Jacob Skousen (Illinois State Archaeological Survey)

Revisiting Range: Research Potential of Legacy Collections from the FAI-270 Project in the American Bottom

Peter Niemczyk (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Preliminary View of an Oneota Village near Green Bay in Brown County, Wisconsin

Randy R. Dickson (Midwest Archaeological Consultants), Robert Jeske (Jeske Archaeological Consultants, LLC)

Playing with Fire: Exploring the effects of prescribed fire on subsurface archaeological deposits

Sean Dunham (USDA Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest), Bex Kern (USDA Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest), Douglas Kastendick (USDA Forest Service - Northern Research Station)

Reconstructing Middle Woodland Foodways, Culinary Practices, and Feasting at 9DW276, Rice Farm

Sophie R. Woitel (Marquette University), William M. Balco (Northeastern Illinois University), Richard W. Edwards

(University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Katherine M. Ahlrichs
(Towson University)

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Saturday: Paper Session

General Paper Session II

Room 243

- 2:00 PM What's the Point: Lithic Tool Analysis of the Ida Bay Site**
Sean P. Gleason (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
- 2:15 PM Probably Not Perrot: Glass Beads, Indigenous Occupations, and Exchange Networks near Trempealeau, WI in the 18th – 19th centuries**
Heather Walder (University of Wisconsin - La Crosse)
- 2:30 PM Complementary Data Sources: Farmstead Archaeology, Oral Histories, and Archaeology**
Kristen R. Fellows (North Dakota State University)
- 2:45 PM The Uncertain Afterlife of Archaeological Collections: Addressing Challenges and Opportunities Regarding Artifact Ownership and Archaeological Curation**
Crystal Morgan (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee),
Megan Thornton (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
- 3:00 PM Break**
- 3:15 PM An Analysis of Material Culture: A Sheepskin Coat from the Germans From Russia**
Merlin Schilling (North Dakota State University)
- 3:30 PM On Elephants, Tonics, and Snake Oil: Preliminary Exploration of Health Perceptions in Saint Paul's Wabasha Street Capitol Neighborhood (c. 1880s-1950s)**
Peter Hutchison (106 Group), Kate Hunt (106 Group),
Claire Nelson (106 Group)
- 3:45 PM Classical Representation and Misinformation in**

North American Archaeology

Dominica Raven Greenlee

2:15 PM - 5:00 PM Saturday: Poster Session

General Poster Session II

Room 245A

Mound or Push Pile? Remote Sensing of an Earthen Mound in Southeastern Indiana

Aaron Comstock (University of Cincinnati), Christopher Shelton (University of Cincinnati), Nathan Thomas (Archaeological Research Institute), Rachel Sharkey (Archaeological Research Institute)

Environmental Data Generation for Inductive Precontact Archaeological Site Predictive Modeling within South Dakota

Alexander T. Anton (South Dakota State Historical Society, Archaeological Research Center)

Finding Chromium: Using Leather to Date a Site

Courtney Elsaesser (Civil & Environmental Consultants), Dianna Martinez (Civil & Environmental Consultants)

Mammoth and Mastodon Discoveries in Historical Newspapers of Illinois

Dorian Bialasik (Northeastern Illinois University), Julian Brudnak (Northeastern Illinois University), Declan Powers (Northeastern Illinois University), Will Dorais (Northeastern Illinois University), Juan Linares (Northeastern Illinois University)

Preliminary Artifact Analysis from Excavations at the Belle Creek Site (21GD200) from 2024 to 2026

Isaiah Gardell (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Dominick Saccone (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andy VanderHaeghen (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Early Water Infrastructure in Grand Marais, MN

Kara Drees (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Sarah Busch (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Brea Fryett (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Kenzie Drummer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Preliminary Results of Pedestrian Survey and Archival Research of the Historical Sawtooth Mountains Ski Area

Sarah Busch (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Kara Drees (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Kenzie Drummer (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Brea Fryett (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Dueling Cameras: Simultaneous Photogrammetry Captures of Block 1 at the Belle Creek Site

Sarah Busch (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Brea Fryett (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Kenzie Drummer (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Developing a Preliminary Geoarchaeological Predictive Model for Identifying Proboscidean Sites in Southeast Wisconsin

William M. Balco

(Northeastern Illinois University), Daniel J. Joyce (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Scott D. Kirk (University of New Mexico, Auxilio Archaeological Services), Michael F. Kolb (Strata Morph Geoexploration, Inc.)

Photogrammetric Investigations of a Potential Refuse Pit Feature at the Belle Creek Site

Wyatt T. Puhl (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Kenzie L. Drummer (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Brea K. Fryett (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andrew A. Brown

(Minnesota State University, Mankato), Sarah L. Busch
(Minnesota State University, Mankato)

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Saturday: Panel

Current Threats to Historic Preservation

Organizers: Lucy Harrington (Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office)
Room 241

Discussion participants

John Doershuk (Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist)

Lindsey Wallace (106 Group)

Lucy Harrington (Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office)

Tyrel Iron Eyes (SRST Tribal Historic Preservation Office)

Abstracts

Panels

CRM Perspectives, Relationships, and Consultation

Moderator: Eve Hargrave (NAGPRA Office, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

Discussion Participants:

Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato)
Bobi Deere (Joe Deere Consulting LLC)
Eve A. Hargrave (NAGPRA Office, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
Franky Jackson (PIIC Tribal Historic Preservation Office)
Jack Rossen (Chronicle Heritage and Algonquin Consultants)
Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)
Tyrel Iron Eyes (SRST Tribal Historic Preservation Office)

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) provides the largest number of archaeological jobs in the United States. Over the past 20 years, we have seen a significant increase in Tribal involvement with CRM archaeology. In addition to increased consultation with THPOs and Tribal archaeologists, other areas of engagement include Tribal-owned CRM companies, Tribal monitors on CRM projects, and a steady growth in collaborative projects between Tribal and non-Tribal archaeologists. This session explores the many paths taken by Native and non-Native archaeologists that have led to an improved understanding of cultural protocols, strengthened relationships among all parties on a project, more appreciation of how multiple viewpoints enrich interpretations, and a recognition of shared goals of site preservation and learning about the past. After a brief introduction, the Moderator will ask the panelists a series of questions about their roles, experiences, and perspectives on future directions for CRM. Questions from the audience are encouraged.

Discussion participants

Current Threats to Cultural Preservation

Organizer: Lucy Harrington (Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office)

Discussion participants

John Doershuk (Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist)

Lindsey Wallace (106 Group)

Lucy Harrington (Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office)

Tyrel Iron Eyes (SRST Tribal Historic Preservation Office)

In the 1950s and 60s, the country saw widespread “urban renewal” and the development of interstate highways that destroyed celebrated historic places and previously unknown archaeological sites. Damage to other historic properties, such as traditional historic places of significance to Tribes, have been ongoing. In reaction to this widespread loss of historic places, the National Historic Preservation Act was signed into law in 1966. Section 106 of the Act (54 USC 306108) states that Federal agencies shall consider historic properties in review of their undertakings. Because this section is very brief, implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800) were established by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) that describe different roles and preservation steps. In July 2026, the ACHP proposed changes that pose a threat to historic preservation. There are also pushes for “permitting reform” and expedited reviews of projects deemed “energy emergencies” to shorten review time for new developments.

Symposia

Recent Research in Oneota Archaeology

Organizer: Richard W. Edwards IV (University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee)

Upper Mississippian archaeology has long been a research focus. Historically, Oneota research has been an avenue for examining major anthropological questions. This session provides a variety of papers that represent research on new sites, that goes in new directions, or that approaches old topics from alternative angles. This research examines a

range of topics and regions, from eastern Wisconsin to Minnesota, and from ceramic function to landscape use and territory maintenance.

Ground Breaking: The Legacy Amendment and the Impact of Investing in Minnesota Archaeology

Organizer: Katy J. Mollerud (Minnesota Historical Society)

In 2008, Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, creating the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF) to preserve the state's historical and cultural heritage. Since then, the ACHF has emerged as a vital driver of archaeological research throughout Minnesota. This symposium looks back on more than fifteen years of ACHF-supported research to explore and celebrate a diverse range of field, analytical, and collections-based projects. Presentations highlight how Legacy funding has contributed to the practice of archaeology in the state and deepened our understanding of some of the central research questions in Minnesota archaeology. The symposium closes by considering the future of archaeological research under the amendment, including opportunities to deepen collaboration among archaeologists, Native communities, and local organizations.

Papers

A Tale of Two Counties: Statewide Archaeological Survey of Kittson and Wilkin Counties in the Red River of the North

Abraham Ledezma (In Situ Archaeological Consulting), Craig Picka (In Situ Archaeological Consulting)

Supported by Minnesota's Legacy Amendment, an archaeological survey was conducted in Kittson and Wilkin Counties. In all, 69 new sites were identified, and updates were provided on five previously recorded sites. Even though bison hunting was the main subsistence pursuit, the differing environments and regional position configured the occupational sequence. Both had evidence for the early appearance of mound centers. Trajectories diverged during the Late Woodland period. For Kittson County, Blackduck occupations were prevalent, with evidence for bison processing near kill

sites. For Wilkin County, Blackduck sites occurred primarily along upland valley margins. During the Late Precontact period, Kittson County appears only lightly occupied. This is not the case in Wilkin County to the south. Our survey work identified a large site (more than 2 miles in extent) that was a gathering of Northeast Plains, Oneota, and Coalescent peoples in the Late Precontact period.

Preliminary Results of Legacy-Funded Grand Marais Geoarcheological Survey

Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

One of the 2025-2026 Legacy-funded Statewide Archaeological Survey projects is focused on the city of Grand Marais whereas previous surveys focused on specific counties. This survey consisted of updating MnModel Phase IV for the north shore modelling region and testing it within the city limits. Preliminary results of the survey will be presented and model development will be discussed.

Of Mice and Menetus: Fauna and Feature Function at Koshkonong Creek Village

Angelina R. Collura (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

While faunal analyses are most commonly applied to evaluations of past subsistence practices, they are also useful for addressing a wider array of questions in household archaeology surrounding activity centers and feature functionality, among others. This paper examines a dense cluster of features at Koshkonong Creek Village, a late precontact Oneota site in southeastern Wisconsin that was occupied between ca. AD 1200 and 1450. Specifically, this paper will focus on identifying past activities conducted within the vicinity of a household structure.

Function and Form: A Use-Alteration Analysis of Oneota Ceramics

Catherine M. Lake (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

This paper explores the relationship between ceramic vessels' form and function by examining use-alteration traces on ceramics from a late precontact Oneota site. Koshkonong Creek Village (KCV), located in southeastern Wisconsin, was occupied between ca. AD 1100-1450. Excavations over seven field seasons, conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, have recovered a large ceramic assemblage. This paper focuses on the 2025 ceramic assemblage. This analysis provides an initial assessment of the functional range of ceramics at the site (Kooiman 2021; Skibo 2013) and a preliminary assessment of the relationship between function and style (Carpiaux 2018; Schneider 2015).

Archaeology for Whom? Insights from the 2024 Statewide Survey Project at the Minnesota State Capitol

Christopher E-W Rico (Braun Intertec Corporation)

Community engagement and establishing meaningful stakeholder connections within project frameworks are sometimes viewed as nebulous, difficult, or secondary to research goals and project outcomes. The 2024 Statewide Survey of the Minnesota State Capitol presented a unique opportunity to demonstrate the importance and use of Legacy funding to undertake archaeological and historical research. This presentation examines the process of incorporating public archaeology theory during the research design phase and how it was translated into praxis during fieldwork and project execution. Through site tours, real-time interpretation using digital mediums, student mentorship, and volunteer engagement, these methods led to positive stakeholder impact, represented valuable project resources, and produced meaningful research outcomes. The presentation will expand and present these examples as a foundation for future statewide survey projects and as viable pathways for sustaining support of the Legacy Amendment and the vitality of archaeological and cultural resource professions.

The Uncertain Afterlife of Archaeological Collections: Addressing Challenges and Opportunities Regarding Artifact Ownership and Archaeological Curation

Crystal Morgan (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Megan Thornton (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Archaeological repositories face a growing curation crisis as storage space becomes increasingly limited and collections remain untouched for decades. While artifact collection supports specialized analysis and preserves materials for future research, many collections lack documentation clarifying whether removal was permitted, who retains ownership, or what should happen after analysis. These gaps create practical challenges for repositories, tensions between archaeologists and communities, and potential financial or criminal legal penalties for archaeologists. This paper examines laws surrounding the collection of artifacts from private property and argues that reexamining collections with unclear ownership can serve as both a curation strategy and an opportunity to rebuild community relationships. By researching applicable property laws, project histories, and Indigenous stakeholder interests, repositories can better determine appropriate artifact disposition. When return is legally and ethically appropriate, collaboration with landowners can promote responsible curation as well as foster good will between archaeologists, landowners, and communities.

The Archaic Tradition in Central Minnesota: Stone tool Economies and Technologies

Dan Wendt (Science Museum of Minnesota), Jasmine Koncur (Science Museum of Minnesota), Edward P. Fleming (Science Museum of Minnesota)

A Legacy Grant funded study of the Archaic Tradition of Central Minnesota relied heavily on the analysis of curated collections of stone tools to learn about interactions along the prairie-forest border, hunting strategies, settlement patterns, and the economy of raw materials. The Archaic in central Minnesota was marked by key climatic transitions between the Early and Middle Holocene, about 8,000bp, to the warm and arid, grassland promoting conditions of the Middle Holocene and a second between the Middle and Late Holocene, about 4000bp, toward cooler and wetter, forest promoting conditions. Central Minnesota diagnostic stone tools show

characteristics of both Great Plains and Woodland Archaic traditions and show intermixing of point styles and lithic resources that mirror the changing mosaic of resources across the prairie forest border.

Minnesota's Archaeological Renaissance from the 2008 Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment: Introduction and Recent Projects

David Mather (Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office)

The Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota State Constitution was overwhelmingly approved by voters in the 2008 election despite the nation being embroiled in the 'great recession' financial crisis. It established a 3/8 of one percent sales tax increase with revenue supporting projects that benefit the state's natural and cultural heritage. While a small portion of the total, Minnesota archaeology has benefitted greatly from this revenue through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, which provides support for grants through the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants program, projects developed and contracted through the Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites, and direct appropriations to Minnesota institutions. This introduction describes how the Legacy Amendment came to be, how it works, and presents some aspects of recent projects. We are currently in the last decade of the Legacy Amendment's 25 year span, which was established from 2009 to 2034.

Classical Representation and Misinformation in North American Archaeology

Dominica Raven Greenlee

North American Archaeology is constantly plagued with pieces of misinformation, disinformation, and total fabrication in the way sites and the cultural heritage of the continent is represented. While much of this can be attributed to cultural violence, a portion of it comes from the deference to misinterpretations of older cultural historians from the 19th century. Within these documents is a strikingly overt use of Classical imagery and description when crafting their discussions and interpretations of archaeological sites. To an untrained eye, these manuscripts can be seen to

create evidence that the cultural heritage of North America was created by Graeco/Roman influence. Examples include the poetic description of sites found in the Fall of Aztalan by Alexander, explorers and geologists' comparisons of natural environments to the Cyclopean architecture of Mycenaean Greece, and a discussion of archaeological investigations found in The Cliff Dwellers of Mesa Verde of Gustaf Nordenskiöld.

New Radiocarbon Dates from the Pedersen Site at Lake Benton, Minnesota

Edward P. Fleming (Science Museum of Minnesota), Charles E. Umbanhowar (St. Olaf College)

The Pedersen site in southwest Minnesota has been inhabited repeatedly for more than 10,000 years with investigations since the mid-1950s providing evidence for virtually every regional archaeological component from Paleoindian up to historic times. Sites preserving a complete regional sequence are rare and allow us to examine cultural and environmental changes since the retreat of the glaciers, but chronological control can be challenging.

With the support of Legacy funding, the Science Museum of Minnesota leads a program of interdisciplinary research into the archaeology and environmental history of the site. Excavations revealed 2-meters of archaeological deposits containing Paleoindian stone tools in the lowest levels and subsequent components up the soil column, intermixed with animal bone and wood charcoal. A series of radiocarbon dates offers some chronological control for the occupations. Noteworthy are dates from a feature near the bottom of the excavation that place the initial occupation during the Late Pleistocene.

Minnesota Legacy Amendment funded archaeological investigation and evaluation of the Munroe Logging Railroad Turntable Site (21CA804)

Fred Sutherland (HDR Engineering, Inc.)

In 2020, the Minnesota Legacy Amendment supported the investigation of a suspected late 19th-century logging railroad facility and labor camp in central Minnesota. The identified foundations and artifacts from this site (21CA804), known as Munroe or Camp 8 in historic records, compelled researchers to obtain additional Legacy Amendment funding to evaluate the property for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. In 2023, the funded project discovered features and artifacts revealing details about worker's daily lives, construction methods used, changing management of rail traffic, wear & failure of locomotive parts, fuel use, and stages of abandonment. This study concluded the Munroe Turntable site is potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, C, and D. These findings are being used to manage preservation of the site and to submit a formal nomination of 21CA804 to the National Register of Historic Places.

Probably Not Perrot: Glass Beads, Indigenous Occupations, and Exchange Networks near Trempealeau, WI in the 18th – 19th centuries
Heather Walder (University of Wisconsin - La Crosse)

Perrot's Post (47Tr30) in western Wisconsin, historically linked to French trader Nicolas Perrot (arriving c. 1685), is more likely associated with ancestral Ho-Chunk and/or Lakota communities of the early-mid 18th century. In 2024, soil chemistry investigations identified localized anthropogenic metal enrichment but little evidence for mercury associated with vermilion trade, raising questions about the scale and nature of early French fur trade activity there. This paper presents complementary compositional analysis results from 85 glass trade bead samples from Perrot's Post from the c. 1730s and the nearby Oneota Point (47Tr311) site occupied c. 1800-1850. White compound beads from Perrot's Post were consistently opacified with antimony (Sb), while similar types from Oneota Point were opacified with arsenic (As), indicative of shifting European manufacturing practices over time. These results contribute to broader investigations of 18th and 19th century colonialism, emphasizing ongoing Indigenous engagement with shifting Upper Midwest exchange networks through time.

Ground Truthing- Comparing The Results of the Geophysics and Excavations From 21GD200 The Belle Creek Village

Jackson T. Davis (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

During the summer of 2026 the EARTH Systems Laboratory at Minnesota State, Mankato conducted a field school in collaboration with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of The Prairie Island Indian Community. The field school took place over the course of five weeks at the Belle Creek Village Complex (21GD200, 21GD72). During the field school the geophysical methods of magnetic gradiometry and electrical resistivity were used within the village where several large anomalies were located. One of these anomalies was then excavated revealing a feature and several artifacts. Comparing the results of the geophysical methods to the results of the excavation reveals a correlation between the boundary of the feature and the location of the anomaly. These methods also revealed geologic anomalies, providing a better understanding of the geologic history of the site. Ground truthing allows for researchers to test their hypothesis, and potentially can provide information on other geophysical anomalies.

Reevaluating Ceramic Assemblages through Pottery Refit Analysis: A Fort Ancient Case Study from Southwest Ohio

Jamie L. Inman (University of Louisville), Aaron Comstock (University of Cincinnati)

Pottery sherds are among the most common artifacts recovered from archaeological sites in North America. As fragments of larger vessels, however, sherds provide an incomplete framework of past behaviors. Refitting can scale sherd data to provide more representative reflections of complete vessels and support more confident interpretations. Using systematic pottery refitting from the Turpin site (33HA19), a Fort Ancient village near Cincinnati, Ohio, this study examines three applications of refit analysis. First, refits provide an additional line of evidence to parse feature differences described during excavations; a lack of cross-refits supported

interpretations of discrete features and activities. Second, rim refits expand usable datasets and provide more representative vessel data in highly fragmentary assemblages. Finally, refitting decorated sherds can reveal previously obscured motifs and interregional connections. These findings demonstrate how refit analysis can correct classification errors, improve interpretations of ceramic diversity and social interaction, and support the reexamination of legacy collections.

Todd County Archaeological Survey: Expectations, Results, and Value of Broad County Survey

Joe Pnewski (Area M Consulting, LLC)

From 2020 through 2021, the Todd County Archaeological Survey (TCAS) was conducted through funds provided by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The TCAS included a broad and encompassing study of Todd County conducted in order to gather archaeological information about the county, which despite offering numerous potential resources, has one of the sparsest numbers of recorded archaeological sites in the state. The TCAS inventoried previous archaeological resources, documented private collections, and conducted Phase I archaeological survey within approximately 1,003 ac across the county. Analysis of the results of the study offered a more holistic understanding of the archaeological timeline, distribution of sites across the landscape, and further archaeological potential modeling for Todd County. This type of study highlights the value and importance of the Legacy Amendment funding, which allows for broader analysis and testing strategies, which contribute to a fuller view of the archaeological resources within our state.

Shared Ground, Changing Responses: A Comparative Evaluation of Geophysical Methods for Historic Cemetery Investigations

Joseph E.B. Snider (Terracon Consultants, Inc.), Alexander C. Corkum (Terracon Consultants, Inc.)

Geophysical investigations of historical cemeteries are often limited by site access, equipment, budget, and ground conditions, making direct

comparisons of instrumentation over common grave targets rare. This study evaluates ground-penetrating radar (GPR), magnetometry (MAG), electromagnetic induction (EMI), and unmanned aircraft system (UAS)-based photogrammetry across 1.85 acres of a historical cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Two field mobilizations provided overlapping datasets acquired under varying survey conditions. GPR data were collected using the KONTUR Ground 2124, ImpulseRadar Raptor 45, ImpulseRadar PinPointR, Sensors & Software Noggin Plus, and MALA EL Core systems at 0.25 m transect spacing. Complementary surveys included a SENSYS MXPDA five-channel MAG, a GF Instruments CMD Mini-Explorer EMI system collected at 0.5 m spacing, and a DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise UAS. The results demonstrate substantial differences in anomaly visibility, spatial definition, depth sensitivity, and background variability, confirming that instrument selection and site conditions strongly influence grave detection and characterization.

21BK0153: A Multicomponent Site at the Toad Lake Public Water Access in Becker County, Minnesota

Josh Anderson (Minnesota Historical Society), Kaelyn Olson (Minnesota Historical Society), Emily Walter (Minnesota Historical Society)

A Phase I archaeological survey was conducted by the Archaeology Department of the Minnesota Historical Society in 2025 ahead of the proposed rehabilitation of the public water access on Toad Lake in Becker County, Minnesota. The Phase I survey involved the completion of 33 shovel tests and two 1 x 1 meter excavation units, resulting in the identification of a multicomponent archaeological site (21BK0153). Site 21BK0153 is comprised of transitional Archaic/Paleoindian, Woodland, and turn of the 20th century to mid-20th century components. Although activities relating to the post-contact occupation of the site and subsequent demolition of the associated property have deleteriously affected the integrity of the suite of components observed, partially intact soils are present throughout 21BK0153, and the Woodland and transitional Archaic/Paleoindian components retain sufficient integrity to be distinguishable stratigraphically.

sUAS Survey following Drawdown at Lake Bronson State Park, Kittson County, Minnesota

Kat Rocheford (Minnesota Historical Society), Jared Langseth (Minnesota Historical Society, MN Department of Natural Resources), Kaelyn Olson (Minnesota Historical Society, MN Department of Natural Resources), Jennifer C. Rankin (Minnesota Historical Society)

Lake Bronson, a 312 square acre reservoir in the Red River watershed, has over nine miles of shoreline with several documented pre-contact and historic archaeological sites. Drawdown of the reservoir began in November 2024 in preparation for construction activities to place the deteriorating WPA-era dam. It is expected that evidence of cultural activities extends into the previously inundated basin. The purpose of small, unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) survey at Lake Bronson is three-fold: (1) identify any unknown cultural features, (2) monitor erosion of culturally sensitive areas, and (3) focus ground survey efforts.

Several sUAS missions were conducted from 2024 through 2026 to collect imagery and lidar data. High resolution orthomosaics revealed locations of several previously undocumented historic foundations. Digital elevation models were used to map previously submerged landforms to focus archaeological ground survey. Overall, the archaeological boundaries of three sites were expanded, and eighteen new sites were recorded.

Complementary Data Sources: Farmstead Archaeology, Oral Histories, and Archaeology

Kristen R. Fellows (North Dakota State University)

After three seasons of field work and many hours spent in regional archives, the 4e Farmstead Archaeological Project is starting to benefit from the confluence of multiple lines of evidence. The integration of archaeological, archival, and oral historical data has led to the development of general, contextual knowledge of the relationship between bonanza farms and homesteaders. But, this type of approach can also offer site-specific insights that might be missed when relying on a single type of data. This paper provides a preliminary look at how different lines of evidence

can enrich our understanding of early farmsteads and the development of agricultural communities in rural areas like North Dakota. While tacking back and forth between different data streams is not new for historical archaeologists, this case study helps to illustrate the value of a multipronged approach to research.

Moths to a Flame: Illuminating Minnesota's Elusive Early Woodland Component at the Moth Whisper Site (21WB151)

Kylee Glen (Minnesota Historical Society), Matthew Radermacher (Minnesota Historical Society)

A recent Phase I survey for a timber sale along the Zumbro River in Wabasha County identified the Moth Whisper Site (21WB151), a significant multi-component occupation featuring an isolated La Moille Thick component. Given the scarcity of Early Woodland sites in Minnesota, this assemblage offers crucial research potential for regional chronology and ceramic technological development. This presentation highlights the macroscopic and metric analysis of the recovered ceramics, focusing on temper, surface treatment, decoration, and vessel morphology. These attributes are compared against established regional typologies to better define the site's cultural affiliation. Additionally, a La Moille Thick sherd with what appears to be exterior charcoal staining has been submitted for potential radiocarbon dating to PaleoResearch Institute. Continued research of these rare ceramics could refine our understanding of emergent traditions, regional mobility, and cultural interactions at the northern edge of the Early Woodland landscape.

Understanding the Radiocarbon Record: How Legacy Funding Helps

Linda Scott Cummings (PaleoResearch Institute)

Legacy funding has unlocked our understanding of radiocarbon dating and ancient carbon in Minnesota. Understanding sequences and dates on some archaeological materials has been challenging. Hohman-Caine and Syms' efforts (2012) suggested the fresh-water reservoir effect as problematic. My experience with Legacy funding began in 2015. When Pat Emerson, Scott

Anfinson, and I met at the MNHS facility at Fort Snelling to review the collections, four bags containing fish skeletons stood out. Caught in Lake Pepin near the La Moille site by the archaeologists working in 1939, their bones yielded dates ranging from 307-1250 BP, reflecting dietary and tropic level differences. These fish provided the key to unlocking the freshwater reservoir effect (FRE) along the Mississippi and its tributaries. "It's not just the fish", though. Ancient carbon has affected animals on the landscape and wetland plants, seeping into the charred food crust and ceramic dating efforts. View the new Radiocarbon Database!

Spirit Stone "Keskamzit" Art Found at a Riverton Culture Habitation, c. 3,600 B.P.

Mark L. Madsen (Chicago Archaeological Society, SSAS, and IAAA)

A river-worn stone head effigy on display at the Crawford County Historical Museum at Robinson, Illinois takes some pareidolia imagination to see, but it was slightly altered to look more like a face with a teardrop pattern pecked below its right eye. It was found face-down at the bottom of a clay dwelling platform at the 3,600-year-old Late Archaic Riverton Culture site. I theorize it may be a precursor to the Caddo Creation Myth in which the first people to emerge from under the ground with animals, plants and seeds were told by the "creator of everything" not to look back or the ground would seal back up. "Wolf" looked back and people who made it out cried for those still trapped below. This kind of Native American pareidolia art called "Keskamzit" by the Micmac was studied by University of Minnesota anthropologists Wilson D. and Ruth Sawtell Wallis in 1955.

An Analysis of Material Culture: A Sheepskin Coat from the Germans From Russia

Merlin Schilling (North Dakota State University)

In spring of 2026 the class Writing in History assigned its students a unique part of history to research. One artifact was assigned to a sheepskin coat. The coat came with a single index card with information relating to part of its history. From the card this information was given: Jacob Rall was the

owner of the coat, He was an immigrant who arrived in America in 1882, and Jacob was a part of an ethnic group of the Germans from Russia. This paper is the analysis of Jacob Rall's coat in relation to the history of the Germans from Russia and their heritage.

Minnesota's Legacy Amendment Contributions to Prehistoric Archaeology

Michael G. Michlovic (Emeritus, Minnesota State University, Moorhead)

Funding from the Legacy Amendment produced significant contributions to the archaeology of Minnesota. Field surveys in 16 counties discovered over 400 previously unrecorded archaeological sites from the prehistoric period. Several studies focused on Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland and Village archaeological time periods. Additional investigations included LiDAR identification of mound and earthwork sites, dating techniques and problems, and geomorphic studies involving site location, exposure and burial. The Legacy program in field archaeology has made substantial contributions to understanding the culture history of the Indigenous period in Minnesota history, while at the same time providing important new insights into the nature of the archaeological record, and the means for interpreting it.

On Elephants, Tonics, and Snake Oil: Preliminary Exploration of Health Perceptions in Saint Paul's Wabasha Street Capitol Neighborhood (c. 1880s-1950s)

Peter Hutchison (106 Group), Kate Hunt (106 Group), Claire Nelson (106 Group)

Preliminary results from construction monitoring and Phase III archaeological data recovery conducted by 106 Group at a large NRHP-eligible urban historical site (c. 1880s-1950s) next to the Minnesota State Capitol may reveal insights into perceptions of health, wellness, and medicine in a historical Saint Paul, neighborhood. The Wabasha Street Capitol Neighborhood site (21RA0100) consists of the foundations of four large mixed-use multi-story building complexes that housed and employed

residents of diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. By 1905, urban beautification and redevelopment initiatives led to the piecemeal demolition of the neighborhood, preserving deposits that capture distinct views of historical Saint Paul. Medicinal, hygiene, and grooming-related artifacts recovered may provide insights into residents' health practices, personal priorities, and identities, while also reflecting the shifting regulatory environment of the period. This paper utilizes preliminary data to examine the changing perceptions and practices of health, wellness, and medicine in turn-of-the-century Saint Paul

Walk Times, Boundaries, and Identity: Oneota Localities in Wisconsin

Richard W. Edwards IV (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Robert J. Jeske (Jeske Archaeological Consultants, LLC)

The notion of localities has been central to our understanding of Oneota settlement patterns since the early 20th century. Essentially eyeballed, localities were initially defined based on perceived clusters of sites on the landscape. Localities have been treated as independent cultural units, and used to identify variation in subsistence, ceramic styles, and identity. The problem is that locality boundaries have been rough approximations. They were defined without any theoretical or methodological basis. In this paper we explore the distribution of Oneota sites across the landscape using standardized and statistically meaningful techniques. This approach provides a firmer foundation for making inferences concerning relationships between people living in geographically distinct regions.

Oneota Settlement on the Door Peninsula of Northeastern Wisconsin

Robert Jeske (Jeske Archaeological Consultants, LLC), Randy R. Dickson (Midwest Archaeological Consultants)

New data from limited investigations at 47BR200 provide insight into chronology, land use, subsistence strategies and site patterning on the Door Peninsula. Site 47BR200 appears to be an Oneota village encompassing approximately 2.0 acres (0.81 hectares) of densely packed occupational debris. Over 430 features, including storage/processing pits, earth ovens,

and house walls were exposed in trenches covering 2268 m². Lithic, ceramic, faunal and floral data recovered so far provide a comparison to other Oneota components located on the peninsula. Comparison sites including Fabry Farms, Whitefish Bay View, Mero, and Portes des Morts.

What a Legacy It Is! Findings from Many Investigations

Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Between 2014 and now, MSU Mankato has been honored to execute 10 Legacy-funded projects. The importance of this program, which generates enormous benefit for the archeological, educational, regulatory, consulting, Native, and Non-native communities, cannot be overstated. Projects that would otherwise never get done, are done, and the results are often stunning. In this paper, I will briefly discuss some of the more significant findings from some of the projects we've completed to date.

Placing the Belle Creek Archeological Site Complex into the Red Wing region

Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Although the Belle Creek site complex has been known for many years, there has been remarkably little information about it. The mound site was mapped by T. H. Lewis in 1885, and some of the mounds were looted by Prof. Ed Schmidt in the late 1930s. The associated village was visited by J. V. Brower and local avocational archeologists in 1902, who noted many house depressions. Archeologists have speculated since the 1930s about where the site might fit in the evolving understanding of the Red Wing region, but they did so with no actual data. Over the last seven years, research at the site has finally enabled us to fit the site complex into the cultural and chronological framework, which is presented here.

Fast and Furious: Field Photogrammetry for Neophytes

Sarah Busch (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Beginning in 2023, photogrammetry has played a major role in the Minnesota State University, Mankato field schools at the Belle Creek site. While photogrammetry is no longer a novel technique in archeological documentation, handheld field photogrammetry, particularly of excavation floors, is a comparatively rare application. A high resolution orthomosaic of an excavation floor may, in many cases, be a more useful record than planar photographs of the same subject matter. However, photogrammetry capture warrants considerable time, planning, and coordination, things that are in short supply during a busy field season. This paper will focus on the workflow employed at Belle Creek and several years' worth of lessons from both our trials and triumphs.

Minnesota's Legacy Unboxed: The Box-Level Inventory Project at the Minnesota Historical Society

Sarah Wood (Minnesota Historical Society), Kyle Lundin (Minnesota Historical Society), Sophie Minor (Minnesota Historical Society), Katy J. Mollerud (Minnesota Historical Society)

The Minnesota Historical Society has a collecting history spanning 175 years and houses nearly 2.25 million artifacts from over 7,000 archaeological collections. Under the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act, MNHS serves as the primary repository for materials collected on public lands as well as a curation facility for MNHS-led fieldwork and collections acquired through donations. As new standards for stewarding archaeological collections develop, revisiting older collections is essential to ensure artifacts are housed properly, digital data is updated, and research is made more accessible. This paper outlines how the Box-Level Inventory project, made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF), promotes transparency and increases accessibility to MNHS collections for the future. Our methods, as well as the challenges and successes of this project, can be highlighted through the Jacob Brower and Theodore Lewis legacy collections that are foundational to Minnesota archaeology.

Origins and Initial Accomplishments of Minnesota's Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites

Scott Anfinson (Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist, Retired)

After the Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment passed in late 2008, as State Archaeologist, I recognized it provided an unprecedented opportunity to fund foundational archaeological work. In cooperation with the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS), we established the Statewide Survey of Historical and Archaeological Sites (SWS) governed by a three-member Oversight Board made up of me, Pat Emerson from MHS, and Jim Jones from Indian Affairs. We issued the first two SWS RFPs in October 2009. As of the end of state fiscal year 2025, the Legislature has appropriated \$5,750,000 in SWS funding and 46 contracts have been awarded, of which 38 have been focused on archaeology. The SWS has found hundreds of previously unrecorded archaeological sites, obtained hundreds of radiocarbon dates, and provided important new insights into Minnesota's past.

What's the Point: Lithic Tool Analysis of the Ida Bay Site

Sean P. Gleason (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Research in the Door peninsula of Wisconsin has played an important role in understanding archaeological cultures in the Great Lakes region. Two lesser-known sites: The Cove (47DR428) and Ida Bay (47DR035), can potentially contribute to a body of knowledge which provides context for further study of this region. The two sites are located in Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin. Cove is a primarily Late Woodland site, whereas Ida bay, located slightly to the southeast, is primarily Middle Woodland. Preliminary results of the lithic analysis of the Ida Bay Site will be presented here. This analysis will contribute to, questions concerning the potential long-distance exchange of raw material, identifying temporal trends between the sites, and placing the sites within the regional context.

Connecting Collections: Minnesota Legacy Amendment Archaeological Collections Inventory Projects at the Minnesota Historical Society

Steven Goranson (Minnesota Historical Society)

Archaeological collections at the Minnesota Historical Society preserve an unparalleled record of Minnesota's Indigenous and historic-period heritage. Yet many legacy collections contain incomplete documentation, inconsistent cataloging, and limited discoverability. Through Minnesota's Legacy Amendment, the Society has undertaken a series of Archaeological Collections Inventory Projects to address these challenges and make collections more accessible for research, cultural resource management, and collaborative stewardship.

This presentation explores how these projects are transforming decades of accumulated collections data. It highlights project workflows, methods, outcomes, and challenges, including inventory review, record enhancement, and updating documentation to current practices. By strengthening connections among artifacts, archival records, and excavation documentation, these projects create more complete and usable records of Minnesota's archaeological heritage. The presentation also considers how improved documentation supports preservation planning, research, education, and respectful stewardship for future generations and descendant communities, while expanding public access to these collections.

The Impact of Legacy Funding at the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry/Wanhi Yukan

Tom Trow (Mower County Historical Society), Franky Jackson (PIIC Tribal Historic Preservation Office)

The Grand Meadow Chert Quarry/Wanhi Yukan Preserve is the 15-acre remnant of what was once a 175-acre open pit chert mine, with more than 1500 pits that were dug to reach the layer of chert sometime between 1000CE and 1400CE. Starting in 2020, the Mower County Historical Society and the Prairie Island Indian Community (PIIC) partnered on a project to

create a public self-guided walking tour and interpretive program, with signage in English and Dakota, that would guide visitors among the 100 remaining pits. The Wanhi Yukan Trail opened in 2025 with support from a combination of six Legacy grants, administered by three agencies: MNHS, DNR, & MSAB. Two additional ACHF grants are currently supporting a research program at the site. This is a multi-faceted archaeological and environmental project that only exists because of the support from Legacy grants and volunteers, with input from five Indigenous communities coordinated by PIIC.

Geophysical Evidence of Agriculturally Induced Erosional Damage at Mississippian Sites in the Central Illinois River Valley

Tyler Ferree (Illinois State Archaeological Survey), Gregory Wilson (University of California Santa Barbara), John Lambert (Illinois State Archaeological Survey)

In the past decade, geophysical work at Mississippian sites in the Central Illinois River Valley has revealed an alarming amount of destruction caused by agriculturally induced erosion at nearly every major site has been surveyed. In several cases, the geophysical data show areas of sites that have been entirely washed away by erosional gullies or receding bluff lines. Furthermore, visual inspection of particularly threatened portions of sites has consistently revealed areas where artifacts are actively eroding out of features and midden contexts, and LiDAR data shows the rate at which erosional features are advancing across sites. This paper presents evidence of erosion from several of these sites, demonstrating the utility of geophysical methods for identifying erosional damage, preserving a limited amount of information about sites prior to further erosion, and allowing for the possibility of targeted mitigation of areas that are especially threatened by imminent destruction.

The Repatriation of Lakota Names, Martin Charger, and the Dakota Conflict of 1862

William Kurtz (Bureau of Indian Affairs)

Traditionally Lakota names were often passed down through families for many generations. Due to government policies regarding assimilation starting in the late 1800s, much of the Lakota cultural ways such as the Lakota language and religion were prohibited. The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 assisted in reversing these policies. This presentation will tell the story of how Lakota names were reclaimed for our sons from family stories that have been passed on down through at least five generations but had been suppressed for many years. It will tell the story of our younger son's Lakota name that came from a family ancestor who was a Lakota leader who was involved in important Lakota issues. He was also renowned for leading a group of Lakota warriors in the releasing of the Lake Shetek captives during the Dakota Conflict of 1862.

Posters

Mound or Push Pile? Remote Sensing of an Earthen Mound in Southeastern Indiana

Aaron Comstock (University of Cincinnati), Christopher Shelton (University of Cincinnati), Nathan Thomas (Archaeological Research Institute), Rachel Sharkey (Archaeological Research Institute)

Earthen mounds are an important part of Indigenous ceremonial landscapes throughout midwestern North America. Centuries of development have impacted or destroyed countless mounds throughout this region. At the same time, construction produces landscape features that can resemble Indigenous mounds. We examine one such case in the Hidden Valley community of southeastern Indiana, where a mound of earth has been alternatively described as a possible Native mound or a pile of earth from historic construction. Working with the Archaeological Research Institute, we surveyed the mound using geomagnetic and ground-penetrating radar to assess internal structure. Results suggest that this feature is an Indigenous conical mound. Consideration of its location within the broader region reveals that this mound was an important part of the ceremonial landscape of the lower Great Miami Valley. We conclude with a reflection on preserving such locations and presenting important Indigenous histories to local publics.

Environmental Data Generation for Inductive Precontact Archaeological Site Predictive Modeling within South Dakota

Alexander T. Anton (South Dakota State Historical Society, Archaeological Research Center)

The South Dakota State Historical Society, Archaeological Research Center (ARC) is currently working toward generating a pilot inductive precontact archaeological site predictive model for the EPA's Level IV Loess Prairies ecoregion in South Dakota, with the guidance and support of members of Minnesota State University, Mankato's EARTH Systems Laboratory. In order to create viable environmental base data, ARC staff sourced data from original GLO plat rasters, UGSG LiDAR-derived digital elevation models (DEMs), the national hydrography dataset (NHD), the national wetlands inventory (NWI), and from other agencies within South Dakota state government. The procured data was used to digitally approximate environmental conditions prior to extensive mechanized alteration. A variety of conditioning techniques were applied across multiple counties to achieve the approximation.

Finding Chromium: Using Leather to Date a Site

Courtney Elsaesser (Civil & Environmental Consultants), Dianna Martinez (Civil & Environmental Consultants)

Site 11S318 is a historic homestead within an agricultural field that dates from the nineteenth to twentieth centuries. During Phase II archaeological investigations, two leather shoes were recovered from a Test Unit (TU). Based on other diagnostic artifacts, TU-8 dates between 1880 to 1920, with a median date of 1900. This was around the time tanneries in the US began their transition from the long process of vegetable tanning to the quicker process of chromium salt tanning. To better narrow down the date of the TU, the leather was tested using X-ray fluorescence (XRF). This poster goes over the XRF results from the tested pieces of the leather shoes and how this helps with narrowing down the date of the site.

Mammoth and Mastodon Discoveries in Historical Newspapers of Illinois

Dorian Bialasik (Northeastern Illinois University), Julian Brudnak (Northeastern Illinois University), Declan Powers (Northeastern Illinois University), Will Dorais (Northeastern Illinois University), Juan Linares (Northeastern Illinois University)

Mammoths and mastodons were stalked and hunted by paleo hunters in northeastern Illinois more than 10,000 years ago. Although numerous sites preserving evidence of mammoth and mastodon remains have been identified in the region, none are readily identifiable in the Illinois Inventory of Archaeological Sites (IIAS). This poster recognizes this issue and presents a method to search archival documents, utilizing local newspapers, for past discoveries of mammoths and mastodons in northeastern Illinois. The lack of documentation suggests that there may be more megafaunal remains than previously recorded. This poster characterizes the presence of such sites and proposes a schema to record them to better contextualize Illinois during the paleolithic. The project also emphasizes the role of local populations in making archaeological discoveries and places importance on proper handling and documentation of sites in the state

From Census To Database: The Work Behind a Community Based Deep Map

Eliot Palmer (North Dakota State University), Kristen R. Fellows (North Dakota State University), Angela J. Smith (North Dakota State University)

Community Deep Mapping is a GIS-based endeavor that aims to make raw data (e.g., census records, historical photos, oral histories) and research findings more accessible to communities. The Glacier, Prairie, Farm: Deep Mapping the Red River Valley project has begun to build a prototype map centered on Casselton, ND. Establishing the digital infrastructure and multiple databases necessary for deep maps is a tedious and involved process. This poster highlights the work behind building databases needed for a deep map. Led by students, these efforts go beyond mere transcription

and force scholars to think about attribute fields, data cleaning, and ultimately how the data will be used in a future map. Coordinating between multiple students adds another level of complexity and required the creation of a transcription manual. As will become evident in this poster, students have become an integral component of the Glacier, Prairie, Farm team.

Bringing Peach Orchard (33HA19) Back into the Fort Ancient Landscape: Preliminary Results from Southwest Ohio

Grace E. Conrad (Ohio State University), Robert A. Cook (Ohio State University), Aaron Comstock (University of Cincinnati), Bailey R. Raab (Binghamton University)

The Peach Orchard site (33HA19) is a small Late Woodland and Fort Ancient site in Hamilton County, Ohio, situated on a prominent hill overlooking the Little Miami River floodplain. First excavated in the late nineteenth century, Peach Orchard was subsequently absent from archaeological investigations for over a century. Ongoing research combines archival investigation, geophysical survey, shovel testing, and targeted excavation to relocate, document, and reassess the site. This paper presents preliminary results and interpretations from investigations conducted between 2023 and 2026, incorporating newly recovered materials and analysis of the legacy collection housed at Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

Preliminary Artifact Analysis from Excavations at the Belle Creek Site (21GD200) from 2024 to 2026

Isaiah Gardell (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Dominick Saccone (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andy VanderHaeghen (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

The ongoing excavations at the Belle Creek site conducted by Minnesota State University, Mankato have yielded countless artifacts over the last three archeological field schools (2024-2026). Due to the amount of recovered archeological material, only a relative sample of the findings was

used to illustrate what has been found at the site. Artifact identification and analysis was conducted on the recovered artifacts and resulted in the creation of catalogs for each field school. The catalogs were used to help distinguish the three field schools as well as to organize the artifacts by class, type, function, and other essential attributes. Additionally, photogrammetry was incorporated to show where excavations took place for each field school; this helps to differentiate the year of excavation and the location where the artifacts were found. The preliminary analysis serves as a general overview of the artifacts that have been collected from the Belle Creek site.

Rethinking the Limits of Suspended Cooking: Morphology and Mechanical Feasibility in Fort Ancient Jars

Jamie L. Inman (University of Louisville), Aaron Comstock (University of Cincinnati)

A ceramic refit analysis from the Turpin site (33HA19), a Fort Ancient community near Cincinnati, Ohio, reconstructed approximately 75% of the rim and neck of a large jar. The reconstructed vessel prompted an estimation of its original weight and capacity. Modeling suggests that when filled, the vessel could have weighed nearly 100 pounds, raising questions about how it was supported during use. Previous research in the Southeast and Mississippian regions suggests that suspended cooking vessels were limited to mid-sized jars, in part because suspension concentrated force at handle attachments. Fort Ancient vessels, however, exhibit distinct flared neck morphology that may distribute suspension forces across a greater surface area. This study uses the reconstructed Turpin vessel to model whether its morphology could have supported suspension at a larger scale, providing a framework for investigating the relationship between vessel form, cooking technology, and changing foodways in Fort Ancient communities.

Early Water Infrastructure in Grand Marais, MN

Kara Drees (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State

University, Mankato), Sarah Busch (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Brea Fryett (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Kenzie Drummer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

This poster discusses the historic water infrastructure of Grand Marais, Minnesota and the process through which it was identified by the team of research archeologists from Minnesota State University, Mankato over the course of the Grand Marais Geoarcheological survey.

Building Minnesota's First Synoptic Osteology Reference Collection

Maria Heinzen (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Dakota Rowsey (Science Museum of Minnesota), Catherine Early (Science Museum of Minnesota)

Most osteological collections are organized for use by biologists and keep all parts of a specimen together so the entire skeleton can be studied. These collections are often the only resource available to zooarchaeologists who need to identify animal bones, but this kind of organization makes the identification process inefficient. Another less common type of osteology collection is a synoptic osteology collection that is organized specifically for identification of paleontological and zooarchaeological remains, with bones disarticulated and organized by element. To better support zooarchaeological use, the Science Museum of Minnesota is expanding its osteology collection to include a synoptically-organized section. This resource is being developed in consultation with zooarchaeologists to ensure that the most useful elements and species are represented. This poster introduces a new resource for midwestern archaeology that will allow zooarchaeologists to more quickly identify animal remains and establish the past biodiversity of their sites with confidence.

Herman Kruzel's Ax Found Near Sauk Trail in Chicago Heights, Illinois

Mark L. Madsen (Chicago Archaeological Society, SSAS, and IAAA)

Herman Kruzel and his father found a 5,000-4,000-year-old full-grooved hematite ax while putting in a post mold for a new fence northeast of Sauk Trail on Fairview Avenue in Chicago Heights near Thorn Creek and the

Vincennes Trail. I noticed recent scratch marks made by the post mold digger. Other wear marks were covered in heavy patina. The ax also seems to have been used as a pitted anvil and a sledgehammer because the back end is fractured, perhaps cracked breaking rock. Its surface was reworked and ground. While photographing the ax from two separate light angles, I noted two possible animistic "Keskamzit" images in the bas-relief of this broken surface. Could the owner have visualized their self-image and animal-totem, a bear? There is an old native saying that "only rock lives forever, and so it's best to leave your life or your dream in a stone before you die."

New Information from Old Excavations: The 2026 Excavations at the Noble-Wieting Cultural Site

Michael Grabrick (University of Minnesota-Morris), B. Jacob Skousen (Illinois State Archaeological Survey)

The Noble-Wieting cultural site, a 700 year old Native American village in central Illinois, was subjected to archaeological excavations throughout the 1960s and 1970s. In 2017, archaeologists from the Illinois State Archaeological Survey and Illinois State University resumed excavations at the site, and in 2020 began collaboration with 15 Tribal Nations on these excavations and the project overall. At the request of Tribal partners, recent excavations at Noble-Wieting have targeted structures partially excavated in the 1960s and 1970s. In 2026, a field school led by Jacob Skousen from ISAS resumed excavations of two structures partially excavated in the 1960s and 1970s. This poster discusses the results of these excavations and reflects on the benefit of reexcavating or completing excavation of features from past projects.

Revisiting Range: Research Potential of Legacy Collections from the FAI-270 Project in the American Bottom

Peter Niemczyk (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Archaeological legacy collections represent substantial repositories of data and shared knowledge. However, historical differences in recordation,

curation, and analytical methods have often limited their use in contemporary research. This poster focuses on the Range site (11S47), a multicomponent archaeological site in the American Bottom excavated during the FAI-270 mitigation project (1975-1982) as a case study in the renewed research and comparative value of legacy collections, particularly those generated from the FAI-270 project. Mississippian ceramic materials from the Range site are being re-tabulated in a standardized analytical framework to allow for comparison with larger data sets (such the NMRB or ICT-II excavations). This process has highlighted both the challenges in working with legacy collections but has also demonstrated their clear value in addressing archaeological research questions. The Range collection demonstrates how systematic reanalysis and data standardization can prolong the research life of legacy collections by increasing accessibility and overall curatorial health.

Preliminary View of an Oneota Village near Green Bay in Brown County, Wisconsin

Randy R. Dickson (Midwest Archaeological Consultants), Robert Jeske (Jeske Archaeological Consultants, LLC)

Phase I and II investigations at 47BR200 discovered a dense concentration of over 430 features covering approximately 2 acres in size. Circa 25% of the area was mechanically stripped of plow zone. Feature plans and profiles indicate a variety of types, including storage/processing pits, earth ovens, and house walls. Troweling of trench floors to clarify feature boundaries recovered over 500 shell and/or grit tempered sherds representing a minimum of 80 Oneota and Mero vessels. Over 275 chert flakes, Madison points, drills, bipolar cores, groundstone manos, metates, pitted bipolar anvils and hammerstones were also recovered. Digging stick tips and awls, made from deer and elk antler and bones, were found. Animal bone included deer, elk, muskrat, racoon, small mammals, turtle and fish. Charcoal and macrobotanical remains obtained indicate nuts and maize were significant aspects of the diet. Phase III investigation of the site are currently being negotiated.

Preliminary Results of Pedestrian Survey and Archival Research of the Historical Sawtooth Mountains Ski Area

Sarah Busch (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Kara Drees (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Kenzie Drummer (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Brea Fryett (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

The Statewide Archeological Survey (SAS) of Grand Marais, Minnesota has focused considerable attention on an area locally known as Sawtooth Bluff, on which several historical resources have been located. Of these, structural ruins and other infrastructure associated with the now defunct Sawtooth Mountains Ski Area are some of the most immediately recognizable. In addition to targeted pedestrian survey of the area, archival research was conducted. A partial inventory of some of the resources located, key findings of the archival research, and a discussion of the suitability of the area for phase II investigation will follow.

Dueling Cameras: Simultaneous Photogrammetry Captures of Block 1 at the Belle Creek Site

Sarah Busch (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Brea Fryett (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Kenzie Drummer (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Ronald C. Schirmer (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

For several years, photogrammetry has been a major documentation methodology in the field work conducted at the Belle Creek site. During the 2026 field season, the entirety of Block 1, an excavation block comprising over 100 open 1 x 1 meter excavation units, was expanded again and photographed in its entirety for the first time. Two photographers and two different cameras, a DSLR and a cell phone camera, were deployed simultaneously to capture the extent of the excavation floor. A comparison of the orthomosaics generated from the different captures, as well as a discussion of equipment choice and technique, will follow.

Playing with Fire: Exploring the effects of prescribed fire on subsurface archaeological deposits

Sean Dunham (USDA Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest), Bex Kern (USDA Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest), Douglas Kastendick (USDA Forest Service - Northern Research Station)

Fire is a vital ecological process. The U.S. Forest Service and other land management agencies utilize prescribed fire to mimic its natural role on the landscape. Prescribed fire can be used to maintain and restore the condition and function of ecosystems and to reduce wildfire risk. The Chippewa National Forest (CNF) is exploring the potential effects of prescribed fire on subsurface archaeological deposits. Initial research combined literature reviews with field trials using buried simulated artifacts and heat sensors across treated sites. Preliminary findings indicate that prescribed fire on the CNF poses minimal risk to buried archaeological resources.

Reconstructing Middle Woodland Foodways, Culinary Practices, and Feasting at 9DW276, Rice Farm

Sophie R. Woitel (Marquette University), William M. Balco (Northeastern Illinois University), Richard W. Edwards (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Katherine M. Ahlrichs (Towson University)

Foodways, culinary preferences, and feasting remain popular among archaeologists due to their social significance in the past and in the present. Middle Woodland foodways and feasting behaviors in the American Southeast generally remain poorly understood, not due to a lack of trying, but as a result of limited contextual evidence. This poster presents a variety of microbotanical, macrobotanical, faunal, material culture, and contextual evidence of feasting identified at 9DW276, a Middle Woodland site located in north Georgia. We interpret this complex dataset and contextualize ancient foodways, culinary preferences, and feasting at Rice Farm, highlighting the foodstuffs eaten and the social interconnectivity of the semi-sedentary Native American populations that occupied and utilized the site.

Developing a Preliminary Geoarchaeological Predictive Model for Identifying Proboscidean Sites in Southeast Wisconsin

William M. Balco

(Northeastern Illinois University), Daniel J. Joyce (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Scott D. Kirk (University of New Mexico, Auxilio Archaeological Services), Michael F. Kolb (Strata Morph Geoexploration, Inc.)

Kenosha County Wisconsin, is home to the Schaefer and Hebior mammoth butchering sites, as well as other isolated mammoth and mastodon specimens from several locations. Investigations of these sites has demonstrated that depressions of former lake basins and abandoned channels where thin sequences of organic sediments (peats and mucks) have accumulated provide the best environments for the potential presence of megafauna and associated artifacts. Identifying such locations on the landscape has proven difficult in the past; however, we present a predictive model utilizing soils data to couch paleo-lacustrine margins with locations of previously identified proboscidean sites. Four townships (Paris, Bristol, Pleasant Prairie, and Somers) in Kenosha County, Wisconsin, were selected for this study. This predictive model aims to identify locations warranting further study in order to find additional mammoth and mastodon kill and butchering sites to better contextualize their chronology and the behaviors of the human populations that created them.

Photogrammetric Investigations of a Potential Refuse Pit Feature at the Belle Creek Site

Wyatt T. Puhl (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Kenzie L. Drummer (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Brea K. Fryett (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Andrew A. Brown (Minnesota State University, Mankato), Sarah L. Busch (Minnesota State University, Mankato)

Photogrammetry has proven to be a useful method for archeologists in the field due to the immense detail that can be captured and preserved by modern high resolution remote sensing and photography equipment, far exceeding hand drawn field notes and maps. The 2026 field school students at 21GD200 conducted geophysical surveys over a previously unexamined

area and identified a large anomaly, consistent with being a large refuse pit. Prior to excavation, the surface was photographed, and each five-centimeter excavation level was also photographed in detail. The photographs were organized by level and processed in Agisoft Metashape. Photogrammetric models of the feature were useful in conserving a permanent record of the confusing nature of this particular feature for further future analysis. When incorporated alongside other remote sensing and geophysical survey methods, a much deeper understanding of archeological sites and features may be achieved.

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