



# Wisconsin Native American Rock Art: Gullickson's Glen

Photography by Daniel M. Seurer  
December 2015



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## Gullickson's Glen

By: Daniel M. Seurer

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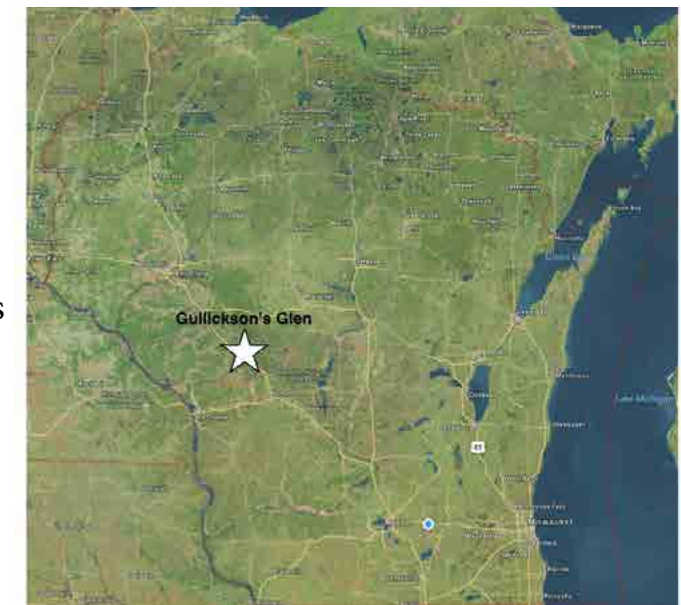
Gullickson's Glen is a State of Wisconsin Natural Area located near Black River Falls Wisconsin. The ancient rock art is found on the back and flanking sides of a small rockshelter in the driftless area of western Wisconsin.

The exact location is not presented here so as to preserve these fragile resources.

According to the archeologists from the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center in La Crosse Wisconsin, Native Americans have occupied the rockshelter for at least 2000 years. Excavations undertaken in the 1950;s revealed occupations during the Middle Woodland and later Oneota periods.

Rock art panels such as those at Gullickson's Glen are

especially difficult to date. It is suspected that most, if not all the rock art is probably less than 800 years old. This falls into line with the dates for the Oneota occupation of the site. Interestingly, quartzite tools which may have been used to carve many of the drawings were found in the Oneota occupation level.





My first visit to Gullickson's Glen was in the mid-1970's as a high school student interested in archeology. I have since visited and photographed the site several times in 2008/2009 and most recently in 2015.

I recently 'rediscovered' my earliest photographs of this site taken in 1974. These were a series of Ektachrome color slides which I subsequently digitally scanned. The more recent photographs were taken with a DSLR camera.

The purpose of these photographs was to compare and contrast the condition of the rock art over the past 40 years. Sadly, much has changed, and continues to change. The images to the left of the central panel no longer exist. The images of geese and deer and elk disappeared when that section of wall fell, destroying the carvings.

Many of the drawings on the central panel are now very difficult to see as moss and lichen have covered these since my photographs

were taken in the 1970's.

Another carving, that of the wolf on the panel to the right of center, faces an uncertain future. The top photograph taken in 1974, plus the additional photographs taken in 2008 and later in 2015 shows the encroaching damage as the sandstone is slowly eroding away, taking parts of the petroglyph with it.



Line Drawing of Rock Art Panel. Source: <http://mvac.uwlax.edu/past-cultures/specific-sites/rock-art/#Gullickson>

# *The Photographs*





Deer/Elk Head





Human Figure





Rock Art Panel





Deer/Elk, 1974  
(panel destroyed)





Thunderbird





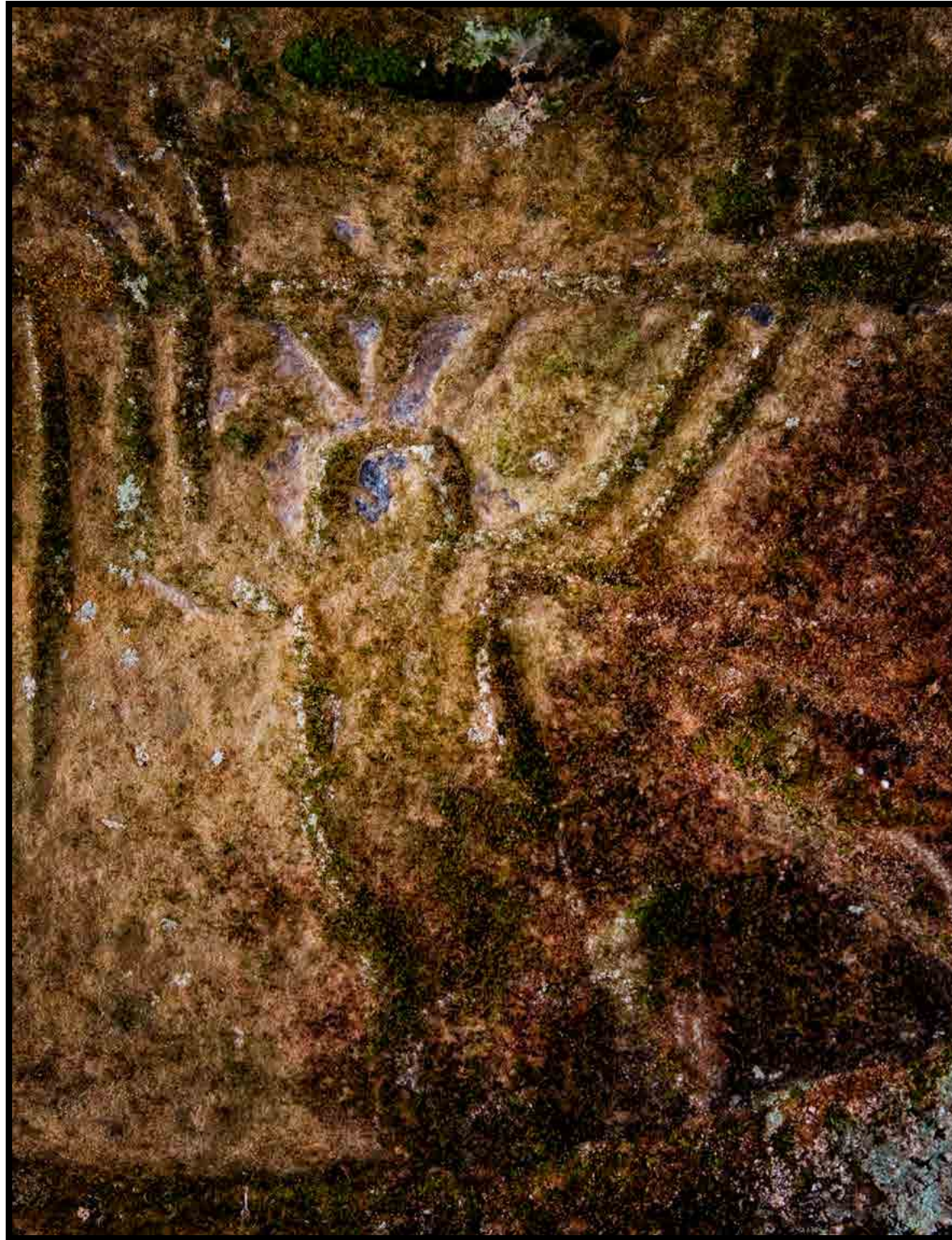
Human Figures on back of fish





Human Figures





Human Figure





Canine/Wolf



# Daniel Seurer, Photographer

I am a former archeologist (M.A. 1982, University of Wisconsin-Madison) turned IT professional. Though having left the world of archeology for the corporate world, the love and interest in past cultures, and the archeologists who study them has never left.

A camera has always been by my side, starting with a Pentax Spotmatic in the early 1970's. I had a dark room available to me in college, and learned the processes of black and white photography and printing.

The arrival of the digital age re-ignited a passion for photography. Today, my interests are photographing both the natural landscape, and the cultural landscape of our historic and prehistoric past. I strive to take my work beyond the photographic 'greatest hits'. Instead, prefer to tell a story through my photography of the wonderful world, past and present, that I have been fortunate enough to have experienced.

