

University study under way

Certification Survey seeks clues to guide OAS future

Reorganizing the Oklahoma Anthropological Society's Certification Program will be guided by a study under way at the University of Oklahoma.

Graduate student Holly Andrew is conducting the research in two parts, surveys and focus groups. The study title is "Engaging With Citizen Archaeologists in Oklahoma."

Her goal is to contact as many current or previous OAS members as possible. She will identify the needs and goals of avocational archeologists about OAS certification.

"The survey, which has been administered via mail and an online site, is to help identify key themes and experiences OAS members have had or not had with the recently shelved OAS archeology Certification Program," she said.

Focus groups will be for all members to discuss the findings of the survey, express opinions about the results, and brainstorm ideas of what they want in a certification program.

Andrew hopes to work with OAS Chapter presidents to set a meeting time and place for the focus groups.

In her initial effort, "responses have been pretty good," she said. She dispatched an online survey to all but 141 people. Printed questionnaires went to those who had not provided an email address to the Society.

"Most responses to my research have shown a real desire to help with the creation of the Archeology Certification Program. The next step is the focus groups, which will provide another opportunity for OAS members to express their needs and interests," Andrew said.

Focus groups will be held in January. All members are invited to attend and express their opinions and
(See Certification Page 6)



Getting a bird's eye view at the Spiro site are, from left, Patrick Livingood, George Sabo, Amanda Regnier and Andy Slauicitajs.

Fall Survey of Roberts Ranch offers sweep of state history

There's a little mystery, a little of the predictable, and a look at how life progressed from Oklahoma's pioneer days to a working ranch in the 20th century. Those basic elements plus autumn sunshine made a rewarding field survey in November.

Volunteers from the Oklahoma Anthropological

Society met Nov. 9-10 at the Roberts Ranch near Cushing. Owners and OAS members Scott and Jean Roberts, Oklahoma City, happily discussed the property's history with the visitors.

Led by State Archeologist Bob Brooks, the crew examined a one-room school site and evidence of a long-gone pioneer dugout. However, a two-story rock house got most of the attention. It is vacant but still intact,

complete with gables outside and plastered walls inside.

Built in 1904 by Samuel Cockrell, the old rock house may deserve another look.

"That's a little bit down the road," Dr. Brooks said. "I know Cate
(See Survey Page 4)

Spiro site yields signs of homes, very few artifacts

Faint cultural evidence is emerging from the first dig in years at Spiro Mounds Archeological State Park.

An October probe found hints of several structures. Just what they are – homes, lean-tos or arbors – is uncertain at this point, archeologist Scott Hammerstedt said. Electronic sounding shows what he calls structure-like anomalies around the famous mounds in far southeast Oklahoma.

A call for salvage archeology prompted the excavation. A man-made, intermittent creek is eroding evidence at four structures.

Joining Dr. Hammerstedt as dig team leaders are Amanda Regnier, a colleague from the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, and Dr. Patrick Livingood, an associate professor in anthropology at the University of Oklahoma.

At some point in the site's history, the creek was rerouted, Dr. Hammerstedt said. Water began eroding several prehistoric structure sites. It also eroded evidence cited by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during field work in the late 1930s.

The October dig marks the first since the early 1980s. However, three weeks of work turned up slight features and very few artifacts, he said.

"Everything points to this being a very short term structure. The posts were faint and hard to see. It doesn't have a regular shape. There was no charcoal, so we're not sure about the date at this time."

Volunteers found digging a challenge. Not only were features slight but the ground was like concrete, he said.

The team plans a re-
(See Spiro Dig Page 6)

It's time to renew

Simply fill out the OAS Membership Form in this newsletter, add a check, and mail. That will do it for another year. We thank you.



Trowel Marks Newsletter

A quarterly publication
of The Oklahoma Anthropological Society

Executive Officers

Debra Baker, Lawton, President (580) 678-1416

Ed Mayfield, Oklahoma City, Vice President (405) 525-3343

(Vacancy) Treasurer

Cari Foster, Oklahoma City, Secretary (405) 320-1993

Membership

You can find an application to join OAS or renew your membership, and information about its contribution to Oklahoma archeology, in this OAS Newsletter and on the OAS Website www.okarchaeology.org. Visitors are always welcome at Chapter Meetings.

OAS offers varied memberships. All members receive the Society's annual *Bulletin of Oklahoma Archeology* and quarterly *Trowel Marks Newsletter*. Contributing, Sustaining, Life, and Institutional members also receive OAS Memoirs. For more information, contact Elsbeth Dowd at efield@ou.edu.

Publications

Order handbooks, point guides, memoirs and other publications and material of the Society from the Publications Director. Contact Amanda Regnier at aregnier@ou.edu. OAS publications and materials are listed on the OAS Website.

OAS Newsletter

Editors Jon and Diana Denton, Mustang
(405) 376-0074 jonrdenton@aol.com

Opinions in this publication, unless otherwise identified, are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

Note to subscribers: OAS published two issues of *Trowel Marks* in 2013. They were Vol. 5 No. 1, Spring, and Vol. 5. No. 2, Summer. OAS will return to its regular publication schedule in 2014.

OAS Website www.okarchaeology.org

~ Events of Interest ~

January

25 OAS Winter Board Meeting 1:30 p.m. at Oklahoma Archeological Survey, University of Oklahoma, Norman.

28 Kinet Höyük (Turkey) and the Archeology of Eastern Mediterranean Seaports, 7:30 p.m. guest lecture by Marie-Henriette Gates, Department of Archeology and History of Art at Bilkent University, Turkey. Sponsored by Archaeological Institute of America, University of Oklahoma campus, Norman. Room TBA. Contact Farland Stanley at (405) 325-6921 or fstanley@ou.edu

February

TBA The Steamboat Heroine exhibit, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City. Call (405) 521-2491.

March

1-31 Arkansas Archeology Month "Celebrate Archeology," exhibits, lectures, demonstrations, tours, open houses, workshops at museums, historic sites, state parks, libraries, and colleges. Contact Archeology Month Coordinator Marilyn Knapp at mxj02@uark.edu.

20-21 Vernal Equinox Walks, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Spiro Mounds Archeological Center, Spiro. Center archeologist Dennis Peterson leads easy walking tours of about two hours each and reviews prehistoric Native American mound sites, some mounds are lined up for sunsets of solstices and equinoxes. Call (918) 962-2062 or access spiro@okhistory.org.

27-29 Annual Caddo Conference and 21st East Texas Archeological Conference, Ornelas Activity Center, University of Texas at Tyler.

April

5 Cherokee Pottery Class, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City. Beginning Class with Victoria Mitchell, nationally known Cherokee potter. Registration and fee required, class size limited. Cherokee stamping design and Southeastern style traditional pottery. Contact Jason Harris at (405) 522-0785 or at jharris@okhistory.org.

8 Swords into Ploughshares: Declassified Satellite Imagery in Near Eastern Archaeology, 7:30 p.m. at University of Oklahoma, Norman. Speaker is Jesse Casana, anthropologist with the University of Arkansas, a specialist in Near Eastern archeology. Sponsored by Archaeological Institute of America, OU. Room TBA. Admission free. Contact Farland Stanley at (405) 325-6921 or fstanley@ou.edu

23 – 27 Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas. Includes Publishing Archaeology in the 21st Century, speed mentoring session, forums, paper and poster sessions.

26 Dutch Oven Cooking, 1 - 5 p.m., Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City. Hands-on class. How to care for and clean Dutch ovens, varied recipes and cooking methods. Food and ovens provided. Space limited. Contact Jason Harris at (405) 522-0785 or jharris@okhistory.org.

Trowel Marks

President Debra Baker

The OAS has gone through a lot of changes this past year, and more are expected.

Most of you know that as of January 2014, OAS Trowel Marks newsletter goes digital. This decision was not easy. However at this time, it is a feasible step if OAS is to be fiscally sound.

Some of you have asked if the OAS Memoirs and annual Bulletins are also to become electronic. The Board has discussed this option and at present, there are no plans to change those publishing formats.

Those of you who want to receive a printed newsletter have the opportunity to get it in a hard copy format, just at an additional cost. The Membership Subscription Form has an itemized line addressing the request for a print version of Trowel Marks. We've tried to keep the cost low for that option.

For those getting the newsletter in its new electronic format, please don't forget to include your email address on your Membership Form. Of course, if your email address changes, please let OAS know. Contact Membership Chair Elsbeth Dowd.

The OAS has had a very exciting and busy year. The Fall Activity involved a survey at OAS members' cott and Jean Roberts' land near Cushing.

I would like to thank Scott and Jean for letting us survey the property. I would



Debra Baker

also like to thank Robert Brooks for volunteering his expertise and supervision.

None of this could happen without them.

Most importantly, as most of you know, we are

in the process of revamping the OAS Certification Program. This is not going to be an easy project. Our first step is to hear from the members of the Society. We cannot move forward with this challenge if we don't get feedback about past certification.

Holly Andrew, a anthropology graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, has been asked by the OAS to conduct research on how to revitalize the program. She has graciously agreed.

The first step is a survey. Holly generated it to get feedback from you as a member of the Society.

You should have received the survey by now in

your email. If you missed it, please let us know. You can contact Holly at h.l.andrew@ou.edu.

Also important: Keep in mind that this is also her master's thesis in anthropology. OAS member participation is extremely vital to her as well as us.

Finally, remember, it is time to renew your OAS membership. We have a very exciting year ahead!

Notice

As of January 2014 OAS switches to an electronic version of its Trowel Marks Newsletter. However, printed copies will continue to be available for \$7.50 a year. Write separate checks for the print newsletter fee and the annual Membership fee (see the OAS Membership Form below).

OAS Membership Form

Don't forget to include your email address below

- () **Active** \$20 Receive the annual *OAS Bulletin* and quarterly OAS Newsletter *Trowel Marks*.
- () **Student** \$10 Same as Active, but limited to full-time students. Enclose copy of Student ID.
- () **Contributing** \$35 Receive issues annually of the *OAS Bulletin*, the quarterly OAS Newsletter *Trowel Marks*, and all Memoirs published by the Society during the subscription period.
- () **Sustaining** \$45 Receive issues the annual *OAS Bulletin*, the quarterly Newsletter *Trowel Marks*, and all Memoirs published by the Society during the subscription period.
- () **Associate** \$5 for one additional member of your immediate family, \$10 for two or more.
- () **Life** \$500 Provides all benefits of a Sustaining membership throughout the lifetime of member.
- () **Institutional Domestic** \$35 () Institutional Canada/Mexico \$40 () Institutional Other \$45
- () **Print version of Trowel Marks** \$7.50 a year.
- () **OAS New Member Handbook** \$6. Recommended for new members. Everything you need to know about the Society, its history, meetings, field activities, publication series, and more.
- () **Donation** \$_____ I would also like to make a donation to the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Cell () _____ Email address _____

To join or renew membership in the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, fill out this form. Please make checks to OAS. Send Membership Form and checks to Elsbeth Dowd, OAS Membership, Sam Noble Museum, 2401 Chautauqua Ave. Norman OK 73072.

Roberts Ranch Survey —

(Continued from Page 1)

Wood has an interest.”

Wood is the historical archeologist at the Oklahoma Historic Preservation office. She joined the field survey and reviewed the Cockrell building with OAS members.

Contacted at the Oklahoma History Center, she said she is working on a report on the old house and its relevance to state history (see story Page 5).

The 2013 Field Survey is the first for OAS since 2005. At that time members walked the Nickel Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve near Tahlequah. Also led by Dr. Brooks, the effort turned up historic and native American evidence.

The Roberts Ranch Survey was different in several ways, Dr. Brooks said.

“Most of the time we are focused on surveying things that are either exposed or we don't know something is there, or prehistoric sites, or digging at sites. In this case we can possibly see a progression where we have a dugout to a ranch home.”

He also has oral accounts of the property history from Scott and Jean Roberts. They say Sam and Laura Cockrell sold the property to Ed and Martha Patty in 1908. Jean Roberts' grandparents, A.D. and Sallie Neal, bought the property from the Pattys in 1909.

The Neals moved to Claremore about 1920. It isn't known if anyone lived in the house during the 1920s. In the 1930s until late 1940s, a bachelor lived there and worked on the farm.

A.D. Neal moved back to the house after his wife passed away in 1947. He lived there until about 1955 when he returned to Cushing because of ill health.

So far the ranch reveals little of archeological interest, Dr. Brooks said. That could change if mowing or plowing offered a closer inspection and turned up artifacts.

Research is under way on the dugout and old school. Dr. Brooks is trying to find who built and lived in the dugout – possibly Samuel Cockrell or a brother.

As for the one-room school on property's west side, an old highway map first shows the site as a church. It's map symbol is later replaced by a school – Independence School, according to Jean Roberts.

Her father started attending school there in 1909. School was held there until 1949.

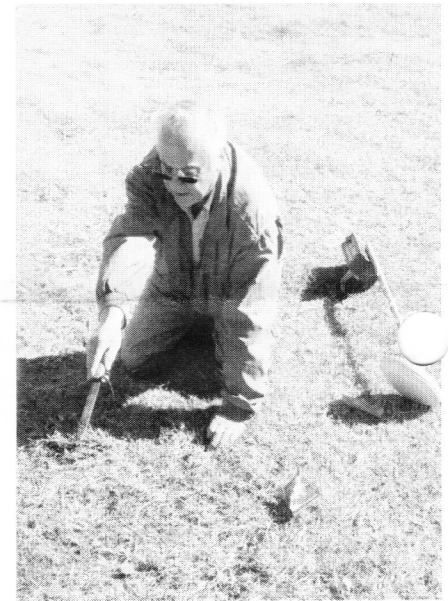
The building was eventually either torn down or moved intact to another location, Scott Roberts said.

Now there's only concrete steps, a foundation, a cellar, remains of out-houses, and an old well.



Archeologist Bob Brooks uses a metal detector at the old house during the 2014 OAS Fall Survey of Roberts Ranch.

At right, Charles Surber, Tulsa, probes the ground after his metal detector sounds off during the OAS Survey.



Below, the survey crew listens as Bob Brooks outlines objectives of a day surveying the Roberts Ranch near Cushing.



Judie Varnum, Stillwater, holds flint chips found around the old house during the OAS Survey.



Century-old house yields few clues about its builder

Over a century ago Samuel Cockrell built a fine two-story ranch house on the rolling Oklahoma prairie near Cushing.

He inscribed his name and the date on a lintel above the right second floor window. He also placed a half-moon and two stars on a lintel above a window on the left.

Therein lies a mystery, say property owners Scott and Jean Roberts.

Last November they were hosts to an Oklahoma Anthropological Society survey. About 20 volunteers walked the ranch, looking for a well, schoolhouse, and dugout. They paced the yard around the old house. The inscribed moon and stars raised curiosity.

"I think they represent the Knights of the Golden Circle," Scott said. Some years ago Civil War reenactors told the Roberts they recognized the symbols as a secret society supporting a Confederate uprising after the Civil War.

"We were told that was their emblem" Scott Roberts said.

Or maybe not.

Cate Wood, archeologist with the State Historic Preservation office, links gender to the symbols. She said at the century's turn, the half moon and star symbols were associated with rural outhouses, helping identify who used which crapper — men at the sign of stars, women at the half moon.

But what the builders meant by the symbols is anybody's guess.

In any case, State Archeologist Robert Brooks finds the house exceptional, he said.

"It's part of the progression you see there, from people living on the landscape and their dreams of moving forward through time," Dr. Brooks said.

The Roberts, members of the OAS Central Chapter, trace the first people living in the area to bands of hunters in

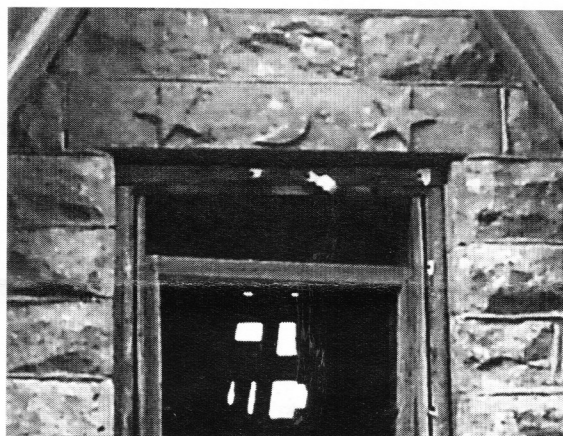


Photo by Cate Wood

Two stars and a half-moon appear on the lintel above a window of the old house.

pre-contact America. In modern history the area was designated Muskogee (Creek) land, then divided with the Sac and Fox.

The Oklahoma Land Run of 1891 moved the area toward statehood. Sam Cockrell apparently acquired the land and built a two-story rock house that still exists on the northeast corner of the property.

Jean Robert's grandfather, A.D. Neal, bought the 160 acres in 1909 from Ed and Martha Patty, who had purchased it from the original owners in 1908.

The Neal family expanded it to a half-section, or 320 acres, by buying the west 160 acres from Jean's great uncle, Jay Biswell. Biswell was the brother of Jean's grandmother, Sallie Neal, who bought it in a sheriff's sale in 1916.

"My feeling is Cockrell built the house and flipped it," Scott said. "You can find these houses of hand-carved rock all



Historical archeologist Cate Wood points out architectural features of the century-old rock house at the Roberts Ranch near Cushing.

the way to Prague. But this is the only one we know of with a name inscribed."

Archeologist Cate Wood identifies the house design as gothic revival with a subcategory of centered gable.

"This category appears in over one-third of all gothic revival houses," she said when contacted at her office at the Oklahoma History Center.

Local sandstone was moved to the building site. Masons shaped it by hand into rectangular blocks. Scott Roberts said he's had an offer to tear down the structure in exchange for the historic stone.

"I said 'No,' he said. "Besides, I'd like to restore the house if I can find a way to afford it."

While the two brick fireplaces are intact, the roof is falling, floors are breaking through, interior walls are shaky. The west exterior block wall is bowing out, a victim of recent earthquakes.

Yet roses and irises are thriving in the front yard, touching reminders of a house once cared for and loved.



Owner Scott Roberts stands amid the remains of the old schoolhouse on the ranch.

Spiro dig

(Continued from Page 1)

turn to digging next summer with an OU archeology field school.

Dr. Hammerstedt may know in January if he needs more volunteers, possibly some from the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, he said.

Research at the site dates to the 1930s. More recent archeological work at Spiro started in October 2011. Researchers from the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, OU Anthropology Department, and Arkansas Archeological Survey conducted a near-surface geophysical survey.

Their joint effort started a multi-disciplinary project aimed at understanding the internal organization of the archeological park.

Researchers think they know a lot about what was in the mounds, but not elsewhere. Less than 15 percent of the site has been tested.

Magnetometers and other electronic devices have allowed the team to search underground Spiro.

Despite the distraction of objects left by historic occupation, as many as 70 prehistoric structures have been singled out.

To get permission to dig, the team formed a cooperative venture with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Caddo and Wichita tribes, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

Hammerstedt said the geophysical survey is proving very helpful. Even though it measures anomalies with as much as 1 cm accuracy, it takes digging to be certain what appears on a readout is what you get from a shovel and trowel.

In the current work at Spiro, "It's matching up nicely," Dr. Hammerstedt said.

Photographs of October's research are displayed at www.facebook.com/spiro-landscapeproject.



Excavators wield shovels and trowels during an October 2013 dig at Spiro Mounds, the first dig there in almost 30 years. Below, Scott Hammerstedt and Patrick Livingood discuss features on the excavation.



Certification

(Continued from Page 1)

needs about Archeology Certification.

Andrew is working on a Masters Degree in anthropology with a special focus on archeology. She has a BA in archeology at Utah State University.

Among her advisors is OU anthropology professor Bonnie Pitblado. Dr. Pitblado also guided Andrew in her first degree when both were at Utah State University.

Asked why she chose the project, Andrew said she spent much of her undergraduate education working with

the public. She found avocationalists very insightful.

"It is from working with them that I gained a passion for teaching the relevance of archeology to the general public," she said.

"When my professor, Bonnie Pitblado, asked if I would like to be involved, I jumped at the chance and I am super excited to work with the wonderful avocationalists here."

She said she plans at least three alternatives to reshape the Certification Program.

She will present the options at the annual OAS Spring Conference in April.

Questions about her research can be addressed to Holly Andrew at the Anthropology Department at



Holly Andrew, left, and her graduate study advisor Bonnie Pitblado, discuss the OAS Certification Program survey during the Fall Meeting.

History of OAS Certification Program

The program provided a series of seminars, workshops and real-world experiences in recording, mapping and excavating archeological sites; preparing collections from archeological sites for permanent curation; analyzing archaeological sites and materials; and preparing written reports of the results for publication. Certification of proficiency was offered in five categories ranging from a Level 1 Surveyor to a Level IV OAS Field Archeologist.

Rock art, new challenges topics at OAS Fall Meeting

Finding leadership, a declining membership, and struggling state chapters confront the Oklahoma Anthropological Society in 2014.

While those topics were noted at the OAS Fall Meeting, they will get increased attention as the year unfolds, said Debra Baker, OAS President. She presided at the all-day session, held Nov. 2 at Gould Hall, University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Signup sheets showed about two dozen attended, many of them archeologists, said Treasurer Cathy Compton. President Baker was moderator. Jon Denton served as Program Chairman. University advisors on the program were Susan Vehik, Lee Bement and Bonnie Pitblado.

Among highlights of meeting:

-- The board approved an update of the OAS Ethics statement as prepared by OAS member Curt Hendricks. Members also approved the changes at the Fall Meeting.

-- Leadership changed. Compton stepped down as Treasurer as of Jan. 1. Elisabeth Dowd accepted the

Membership Chair. Tom Blasing accepted a Director-At-Large position held by the late Tom Purdin.

Compton agreed to continue as Dig Coordinator and accept a new role as Awards Chairman.

-- Chapters in several communities are struggling to retain members and have successful meetings (see related story Page 8)

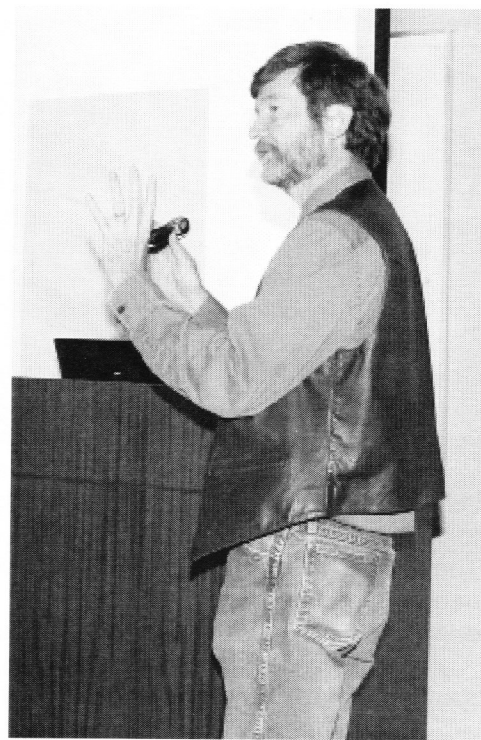
-- OU graduate student Holly Andrew is conducting a study of the OAS Certification Program. She will follow a questionnaire with focus groups early in 2014.

-- An OAS Field Survey, the first in years, was set for Nov. 9-10 at the Roberts Ranch near Cushing. State Archeologist Bob Brooks leads volunteers in search of historic and prehistoric sites.

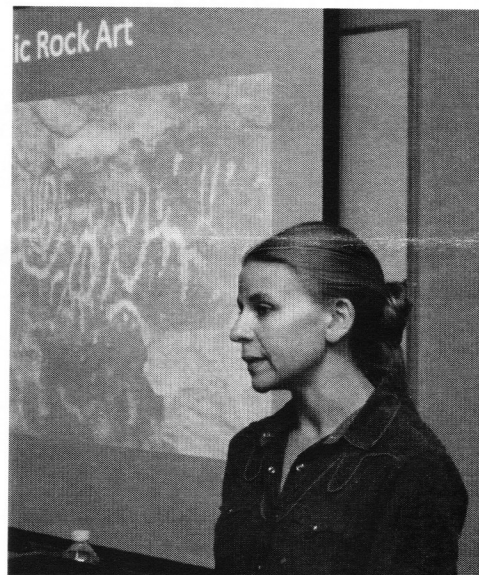
Following the morning board meeting, speakers took the floor on the topic "Petroglyphs and Pictographs: Regional rock art and its value to archeology."

Speakers were Leland Bement, Oklahoma Archeological Survey, "Rock Art in the Lower Pecos;"

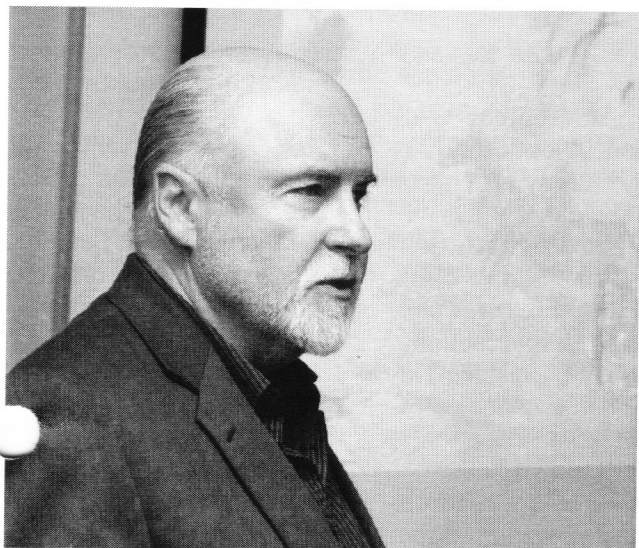
Gary Moeller, Rogers State College, "The Art of Rock Art;" K.C. Carlson, University of Oklahoma graduate student, "Rock Art Documentation at Black Mesa;" and George Sabo, Arkansas Archeological Survey, "Arkansas Rock Art and the Unique Indian View."



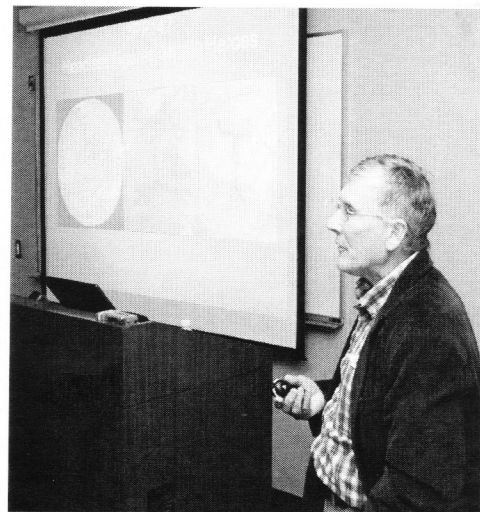
Above, Leland Bement, Oklahoma Archeological Survey, discusses "Rock Art in the Lower Pecos" at the 2013 Fall OAS Meeting in Norman.



At right, K.C. Carlson, University of Oklahoma graduate student, discusses "Rock Art Documentation at Black Mesa."



At left, Gary Moeller, Rogers State College, discusses "The Art of Rock Art."



At right, George Sabo, Arkansas Archeological Survey, discusses "Arkansas Rock Art and the Unique Indian View."

OAS Board, chapters have challenges ahead

Several key changes are under way on the Oklahoma Anthropological Society Board, said President Debra Baker. Some OAS chapters also report new developments.

In the state organization, Treasurer Cathy Compton stepped down in January. The position is important and needs immediate filling, Baker said.

Dot Linn stepped down as Membership Chair. Els-

beth Dowd accepted the position "and we really do appreciate her," Baker said at the Fall Meeting in Norman.

With the death of Tom Purdin, a Director-At-Large position opened. Archeologist Bob Blasing, Oklahoma City, agreed to fill the vacancy.

Connie Masters also has stepped down to leave a vacant Director-At-Large position, as has Phil Marshala.

OAS Chapters report several changes. Arkoma

needs a chapter representative willing to attend Oklahoma City meetings.

Byrd's Mill Springs continues to meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Mercy Hospital, Ada. Carl Gilley is Chapter President and Representative.

Central, Cleveland County, Lawton and Kay County chapters are active with regular meetings.

McAlester and Tahlequah need new officers. The death of Tom Purdin has left the president's office vacant in both chapters.

McAlester and Tahlequah Chapters Vice President Connie Masters has

stepped down. Attendance at both groups has been minimal, Masters said. She is uncertain if she can find replacements for officers to lead the groups.

The new Stillwater Chapter has low attendance, said President Alisa Hines. She hopes a newspaper article will draw new members. Stillwater meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursdays of each month at First Presbyterian Church.

Tulsa Archaeological Society has occasional meetings, said Chapter Representative Pam Proctor. Instead, the group takes field trips, the latest to Spiro Mounds. Paul Roberts, Tulsa, is President.

Natural History Museum adds archeologist as collections manager

A Georgia collections manager has been hired as the new Archeology Collection Manager at Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman.

Susan "Susie" Fishman-Armstrong joined the staff Dec. 2. Elsbeth Dowd held the position until her promotion to Museum Registrar last spring.

Fishman-Armstrong is a native of Kansas City. She earned her MA in Museum Science at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas and her BS in Geology at Fort Hays University in Kansas.

Until her move to Oklahoma she was Curator of Collections at the Antonio J. Waring Jr. Archaeological Laboratory at

the University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Ga. She held the position for 13 years. In that capacity she directed collections management, registration, and education outreach.

She also was volunteer coordinator for students and from the community.

Fishman-Armstrong looks forward to managing a large, diverse collection at the natural history museum, she said.

"There will be some new opportunities in collaboration. I love working with people in many departments and from the community. I'm looking forward to seeing what new things we can be doing."



Susie Fishman-Armstrong

World Wide Web offers timely archeology updates at the tap of a key

Access to archeology is rapidly expanding through the World Wide Web. Even regional and local web sites are popping up online.

Of possible interest to Oklahomans are the following websites:

Oklahoma Anthropological Society is accessed at its new domain name, www.okarchaeology.org.

It offers a varied format with access to news, society chapters, publications, the OAS Facebook site link, regional contacts, and links, training and history.

Access to OAS Chapters with active websites is available. Many post archeological news about other areas and offer links to varied specialty interests.

Cleveland County Chapter, Norman, is found at <http://okieanth.blogspot.com>.

The Greater Southwest Chapter, Lawton, is at

<https://sites.google.com/site/gsoas/>

In addition to OAS links, the Oklahoma Archeology Survey is at <http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/>.

Oklahoma's best known archeological site, **Spiro Mounds**, is at <http://www.okhistory.org/sites/spiromounds>. It is the only prehistoric Native American archaeological site in Oklahoma open to the public.

If you are **searching for an archeologist**, try <http://www.ou.edu/cas/>

archsur/pdffiles/archaeologists%20in%20oklahoma.pdf.

Read it with care, but **Wikipedia** offers a summary of major archeological sites in Oklahoma. Find it at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Archaeological_sites_in_Oklahoma.

And for those who wander beyond our borders in search of good archeological information, try the **Texas Archeological Society** website at <http://www.txarch.org/calendar/inline.php>.

Oklahoma archeology in the news

Oklahoma Chronicles update Red River wreck excavation

The cover story of the Fall 2013 edition of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* is titled "Shipwrecked in Oklahoma: The Last Voyage of the Steamboat Heroine, 1838."

Discovered in 1999 on the Red River, the splintered remains of a side-paddle wheel steamboat prompted marine archeological research.

A team was formed by the Oklahoma Historical Society and Texas A&M University's Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Nautical Archaeology Program, and Conservation Research Laboratory.

Kevin Crisman, Nina Chick and John Davis authored the Chronicles story.

Davis is well-known to the Oklahoma Anthropological Society as Historical Properties Manager of the Fort Towson military site. Davis and Crisman co-directed the field work on the Heroine between 2003 and 2008.

According to the article, the mid-size vessel is the earliest western river-type steamboat to be examined by archeologists anywhere in the U.S. Records show it snagged and sunk while moving an annual supply of provisions to the garrison of Fort Towson.

The Chronicles offer an excellent summary of the country's steamboat history. With its photographs and illustrations, the article highlights the Heroine's archeological and historical significance.

The article suggests the Heroine is "a focal point for studying the dynamic world of river navigation, steamboat culture, and economic and social interactions on the western frontier of the U.S. in the 1830s."

Recovery of the Heroine has yielded significant information on the design

and construction of riverboat hulls. New information has emerged on the engineering and materials of steam boilers, engines and side-wheel machinery.

A full exhibit of the Heroine and steamboat travel will open in February at the Oklahoma History Center.

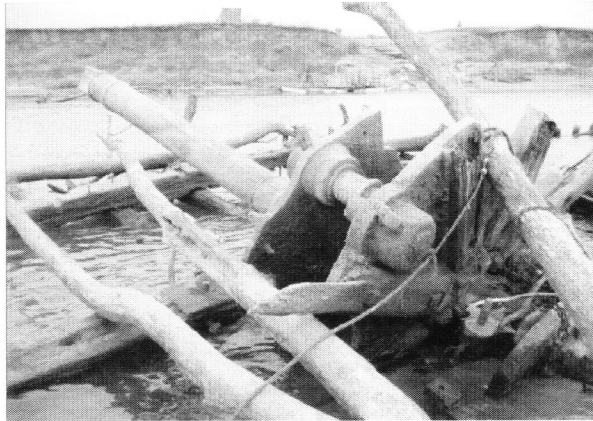
Gas line discovery prompts excavation of Enid mammoth

Geologist Carlos Cordova led Stillwater students in a mammoth dig near Enid late last summer.

A utility crew unearthed the bones while installing a natural gas line, according to an Aug. 27 story in *The Oklahoman*. The Oklahoma Archeological Survey invited Oklahoma State University to conduct the excavation on the private land.

Dr. Cordova, an OSU geography professor, specializes in geoarchaeology. It involves looking at soils and sediments as well as artifacts from archeological digs.

The bones are probably those of an Imperial or



Low tide reveals remnants of the 1838 Heroine paddle wheel steamboat later recovered by archeologists on the River River.

Columbia mammoth, Dr. Cordova said. They might be as much as 50,000 years old. A detailed analysis will give a better idea of what they are and their age.

During the dig, the graduate student team mapped every bone they recovered. With lab work they will be able to find how the animal was positioned.

Once the mammoth is reassembled, the skeleton will go on display at OSU, Dr. Cordova said.

Preserved Spiro lace admired as rare sample

An ancient scrap of cloth is clearly the work of an artisan who took pride in the work, Elsbeth Dowd said in a Sept. 1 feature in *The Oklahoman*.

Dr. Dowd is registrar of the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History and a board member of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

"When you see this piece, it was clearly made by somebody who really knew what they were doing," she said of the ancient clothing. University of Oklahoma ar-

cheologists found it at Spiro Mounds in an excavation in the 1930s.

The Mounds are in Le Flore County in far southeast Oklahoma. The earth works were probably built by ancestors of the modern-day Caddo and Wichita tribes. They lived in the area from about 800-1400 A.D.

The lace is said to be one of the largest, best-preserved samples archeologists have found of late prehistoric woven textiles. It shows the kinds of garments people in the late prehistoric period might have worn every day, Dowd said.

The artifact was among entries listed in the recent Oklahoma Cultural Heritage Trust's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts.

Anthropologist called to examine skeletons

An anthropologist from the state medical examiner's office was called to examine skeletal remains found in the rugged mountains of Latimer County.

Remains of two adults and a child were found, according to a Nov. 19 story in *The Oklahoman*. A family scouting a deer hunting area found the skeletons three miles from where a missing family's pickup was found four years ago, said Latimer County sheriff Jesse James,

The remains were thought to be those of Bobby and Sherilyn Jamison and their daughter, Madyson, 6, who were reported missing in October 2009. They were looking for a plot of land for sale in the San Bois Mountains of southeast Oklahoma.

The anthropologist will work with an odontologist and the forensic pathologist.

Reviews

Jon Denton
Reviews Editor

Arapaho Women's Quillwork: Motion, Life, and Creativity

By Jeffery D. Anderson
Published 2013 by OU
Press

Hardcover 216 Pgs \$35.96
ISBN 978-0-8061-4283-8

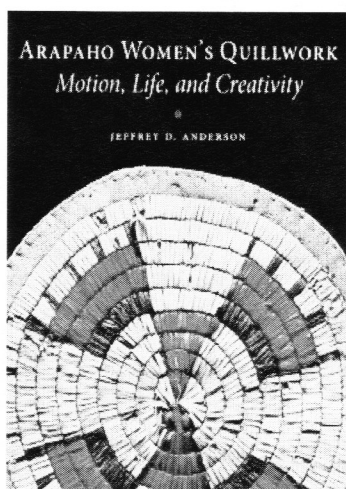
— Review by Kathy Gibbs

This book is the first comprehensive examination of quillwork within the Arapaho ritualized traditions. It is more than a book on quillwork — it is also about Arapaho women and spiritual traditions.

Quillwork art was neither just decorative nor merely complementary to men's art forms and ceremonies. Arapaho women maintained a ceremonial order for porcupine quillwork artistry that was at the very heart of religious practices, an ultimate concern for life, a sense of beauty, and identity as human beings. It was more "art," as art is framed by Western traditions.

Within each type of ceremonial quillwork, Arapaho women artists created a fixed number of styles and patterns. There were different types of shapes, designs, and ornaments — each ranked on its antiquity, value, complexity, and time committed. Important also was color, shape, and proportions.

Unlike secular art forms, Arapaho women valued quillwork projects not for themselves but as gifts that would help relatives make the right transitions in life or overcome difficult times through all of the four hills of



life: childhood, youth, adulthood, and old age.

Quillwork as gifts moved on pathways of symbolic exchange among kin and between kin groups. At the basic level, quillwork was a product of ritually controlled repetitive women's movement, primarily coordinating eyes and hands for placing, proportioning, and shaping quills. It was a form of controlled body motion and vision.

This book is divided into sections. The introduction (26 pages) and the last two chapters, The Movement of Quillwork in History and the Conclusion, explain more of the history of the Arapaho people. The middle chapters describe the different quilled objects within the tribe's culture.

Chapters 1-6 explain in great detail the different designs, patterns, and objects quilled.

Arapaho women quillwork was also tied to the age-grade system and figured significantly in sacred paraphernalia for the Sun Dance, Buffalo Lodge, and men's age-grade lodges.

The majority of quilled

items were acquired during the most difficult time period (1880-1910's) by collectors, missionaries, military officers, government officials and tourists — many purchased at very cheap prices. The irony is that at the time people were gathering Native American art to demonstrate the aesthetic wealth among human kind, tribes were experiencing the worst material conditions and poverty they had ever known.

To summarize: Quillwork began as a sacred tradition central to Arapaho culture. Women gave away quillwork to generate a long and straight life for relatives

and the tribe.

This book is full of so much researched information that it is difficult to read other than a few pages at a time. The introduction and last two chapters on history were to me the only interesting parts. The minute details of the quillwork items would not be interesting to the average reader.

This book is meant more for someone doing research and needing intricate details of the objects.

— *Kathy Gibbs is an author, historian and a former President of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.*

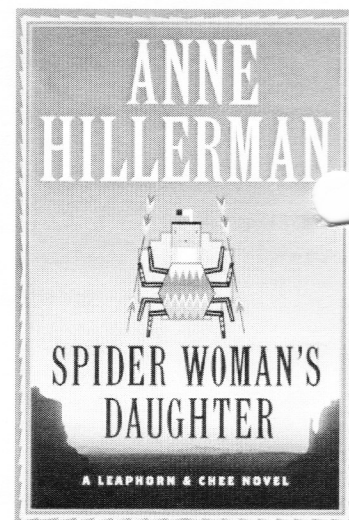
Spider Woman's Daughter By Anne Hillerman

Hardcover, 320 Pgs, \$17.90
Published 2013 by Harper
Collins
ISBN 0062270486

-- Review by Jon Denton

Anybody bold enough to tread in novelist Tony Hillerman's footsteps deserves praise for courage. That the writer is Anne Hillerman, his daughter, is encouraging and, it turns out, rewarding.

The late Tony Hillerman, Oklahoma-born master



storyteller, developed a loyal readership with his many Navajo novels. Set in New Mexico, his tales followed Navajo Nation police officers Lt. Joe Leaphorn and his understudy, Sgt. Jim Chee. In recent years he developed the role of Officer Bernadette Manuelito for a softer side of police work.

Anne Hillerman comes by her writing chops on her own. Her cookbook, "Santa Fe Flavors: Best Restaurants and Recipes" won the 2009 New Mexico Book Award for the best cookbook of the year.

In 2010 she released "Gardens of Santa Fe." Before that she wrote "Children's Guide to Santa Fe."

In the Tony Hillerman books, there's usually an archeological angle. Anne Hillerman follows suit with ample attention to a museum and an insider's view of Navajo culture.

In this case we learn something about Navajo weaving and the great reverence (and value) it inspires.

The story centers on the shooting of the legendary Lt. Leaphorn and a search for his assailant. Officer Manuelito steps up, even though she's a witness to the crime. After she's removed from case, her husband Sgt. Chee is put in charge.

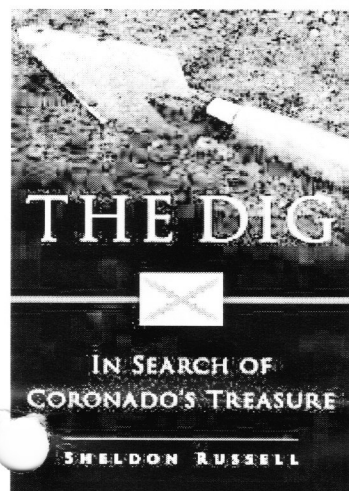
But the stubborn of-
(Continued next page)

(Continued from Page 10)
ficer won't give up hunting for the shooter, especially since she's so fond of her "uncle," Lt. Leaphorn.

It's fair to say the author is not yet up to her father's standards. Her book plods along at times and the plotting is visibly contrived. Yet she's on track with the desert settings and characters. She relights the Hillerman flame.

Let's hope she keeps it going.

-- Jon Denton is Editor of Trowel Marks



The Dig: In Search of Coronado's Treasure
By Sheldon Russell
University of Oklahoma Press 2013

Paperback 238 Pgs, \$13.96
ISBN 978-0-8061-4360-6

-- Review by Jon Denton

Fantasy, fact and fiction do a little dance in Sheldon Russell's latest novel. This time he entwines the stories of Coronado's search for treasure, a broke and out-of-luck archeology graduate student (from the University of Oklahoma, no less), and a Kansas graveyard where he learns some secrets are revealed at great danger.

Russell has the right digree for the theme. He is a former public school English teacher. He retired as a professor emeritus from the University of Central Okla-

homa in 2000.

Readers might be familiar with Russell's previous work. Perhaps *Dreams to Dust: A Tale of the Oklahoma Land Rush* is his best known. It was named an Official Oklahoma Centennial Project. His *The Insane Train* (Hook Runyon #2) was selected as one of the six best mysteries of 2010 by Publishers Weekly.

No less a novelist than Oklahoman William Bernhardt congratulates Russell by saying "*The Dig* is that rarest of literary artifacts — a historical novel that informs while weaving a spellbinding narrative."

As the book jacket says, nothing's going right for OU archeology student Jim Hunt. He's out of money, his petulant wife abandons him and his infant daughter, and he's got to get field experience or he'll lose his scholarship.

Here Russell pulls in the familiar tale of Spanish explorer and conquistador Francisco Vázquez de Coronado. Led across the grass plains by the Turk, Coronado seeks gold but finds treachery. Good research, a little imagination and a some humor make Coronado's search credible and keeps it moving. It also ties nicely into the modern story.

In a small Kansas town Hunt finds himself in a tangle with a historical mystery and a murder investigation. He gets help and sympathy from Eva, an attractive museum curator. But as he digs in, he irritates the sheriff and is warned off by a mausoleum caretaker. From there the tension ratchets as his story and that of Coronado bump to a climax.

Russell is an apt storyteller. His characters are credible if not always dramatic. His latest novel is worth reading and passing on to a friend who also enjoys archeology.

In Memoriam

Thomas Purdin

Thomas A. Purdin, Muskogee, a stalwart member of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, died last autumn after a long illness.

Purdin, 67, died Oct. 1. Services and burial were Oct. 7 at Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

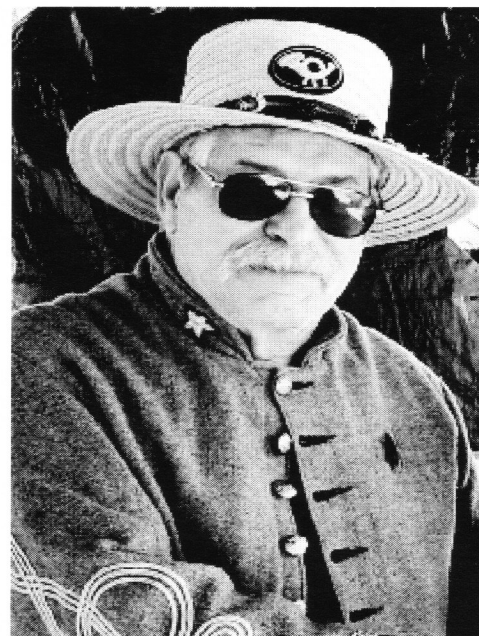
A decorated Vietnam Air Force sergeant, Tom followed military service with college and long-time position as an advisor at Talking Leaves Job Corp. in Tahlequah.

"He bragged so much about the kids he counseled who had gone on to be successful," said a good friend, Connie Masters of Eufaula.

"I think that was his proudest achievement."

Tom and Connie joined OAS in 2005. They became constant volunteers at OAS events. He served as president of OAS chapters in McAlester and Tahlequah; she served as vice president. He also was an OAS Director-At-Large.

Tom and Connie worked hard to establish archeology in eastern Oklahoma. Often they paid for events from their own pockets



Tom Purdin ... in uniform

despite their retired status.

They spearheaded a major clean-up of the Lee Creek Ceremonial Mound near Short. They organized an Echoes of the Past Archeological Festival at Echo Ridge Campground at Lake Eufaula.

They are among the few who labored steadily to achieve OAS archeological certification, recently earning certificates as Level 2 lab technicians, Level 1 and 2 crew members, and Level 1 and 2 surveyors.

They volunteered at many archeological digs in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas.

"I know he loved working with all the archeologists, especially Richard Drass and Lee Bement," Connie said.

Purdin was a Civil War reenactor, taking the role of a major in the Confederate army, although he also performed as a Union soldier when needed. He participated in reenactments at the Gettysburg battlefield site in Pennsylvania.

He was a sutler, selling apparel and equipment at Oklahoma pioneer day reenactments. A gifted craftsman, he created bone handled, flint chipped knives that were as rugged as they were attractive.

Trowel Marks

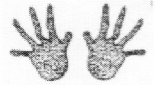
Oklahoma Anthropological Society
11550 Bartons Butte
Mustang OK 73064

PRSRRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1541
OKLA CITY OK

Return Service Requested



OAS Chapters



ARKOMA CHAPTER, Ft. Smith, Ark.

Meetings 7 p.m. 3rd Thursdays
Echols Building, University of Arkansas, Ft. Smith
Contact Tim Mulvihill at tim.mulvihill@uark.edu

BYRDS MILL CHAPTER, Ada

Meetings 7:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesdays
Valley View Hospital Conference Room, Ada.
Contact Carl Gilley at (580) 332-3812

CENTRAL CHAPTER, Oklahoma City

Meetings 7 p.m. first Thursdays
Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36
Contact Curt Hendricks at mcokc@cox.net

CLEVELAND COUNTY CHAPTER, Norman

Meetings 7 p.m. first Mondays
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History,
Norman
Contact Simone Rowe at simone.rowe@ou.edu

GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER, Lawton

Meetings 2 p.m. on 4th Saturdays
Museum of the Great Plains, 601 NW Ferris Avenue, Lawton
Contact Matt Griffin at matthehat2000@gmail.com
See website Greater Southwest Chapter OAS

KAY COUNTY CHAPTER, Ponca City

Meetings 6:30 p.m. 3rd Thursdays
Public Library 5th and Grand, Ponca City
Contact Richard Sherrod (580) 765-9661

MCALESTER ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Krebs

Meetings 7 p.m. 2nd Thursdays
Krebs City Hall, Krebs
Contact Guy Folger at guyfolger@aol.com
See websites for McAlester and Tahlequah Chapters

STILLWATER CHAPTER, Stillwater

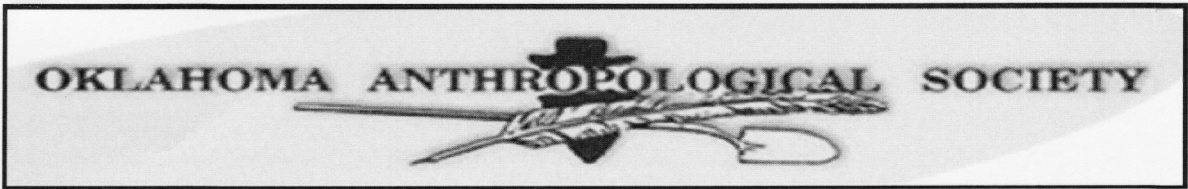
Meetings 7 p.m. 3rd Thursdays
First Presbyterian Church, 524 S Duncan, Stillwater
Contact Alisa Hines at alisa-hines84@yahoo.com

TAHLEQUAH ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Tahlequah

Meetings 7 p.m. 4th Thursdays
Tahlequah Public Library, Tahlequah
Contact Connie Masters at 918-470-3781

TULSA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Tulsa

Occasional meetings 7 p.m. 4th Mondays
Aaronson Auditorium, Central Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa
Before meetings at 5 p.m. at Baxters Interurban 727 S Houston
Contact Pam Proctor at pamela.proctor@cnet.com



Feb. 2, 2014

To: OAS Members

From: Debra Baker, President

OAS needs a little help. Our *Trowel Marks* newsletter has become an electronic publication. However, we lack some email addresses. Can we send you a newsletter via email? That will save on OAS printing and mailing costs.

You can still get a print version of the newsletter at the introductory price of \$7.50 a year. For that, see the OAS Membership Form below. Either way, please update your membership information. Email address: _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

P.S. Have you renewed your membership for 2014? If you need to renew, use the OAS Membership Form below. You can also use the form as a gift membership for others.

Thank you
Debra

OAS
Membership Form

*Don't forget to include your
email address below*

() **Active** \$20 Receive the annual *OAS Bulletin* and quarterly *OAS Newsletter Trowel Marks*.
 () **Student** \$10 Same as Active, but limited to full-time students. Enclose copy of Student ID.
 () **Contributing** \$35 Receive issues annually of the *OAS Bulletin*, the quarterly *OAS Newsletter Trowel Marks*, and all Memoirs published by the Society during the subscription period.
 () **Sustaining** \$45 Receive issues the annual *OAS Bulletin*, the quarterly *Newsletter Trowel Marks*, and all Memoirs published by the Society during the subscription period.
 () **Associate** \$5 for one additional member of your immediate family, \$10 for two or more.
 () **Life** \$500 Provides all benefits of a Sustaining membership throughout the lifetime of member.
 () **Institutional Domestic** \$35 () **Institutional Canada/Mexico** \$40 () **Institutional Other** \$45
 () **Print version of *Trowel Marks*** \$7.50 a year.
 () **OAS New Member Handbook** \$6. Recommended for new members. Everything you need to know about the Society, its history, meetings, field activities, publication series, and more.
 () **Donation** \$ _____ I would also like to make a donation to the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Cell () _____ Email address _____

To join or renew membership in the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, fill out this form. Please make checks to OAS. Send Membership Form and checks to Elsbeth Dowd, OAS Membership, Sam Noble Museum, 2401 Chautauqua Ave. Norman OK 73072.