



Trowel Marks Newsletter

A Quarterly publication of the
Oklahoma Anthropological Society

Officers and Committe Chairs:

- President - Ray McAllister
- Vice President - Vacant
- Treasurer - Bob Sweet
- Secretary - Vacant
- Membership Chair - Pam Leader
- Interim Dig Chairman - Ray McAllister
- Bulletin Editor - Dean Afendras
- Newsletter Editor - Jerri Kunzmann

Salutations: Jerri Kunzmann

Hello Like-Minded Friends,

My name is Jerri Kunzmann, and I am taking over as editor of the Trowel Marks Newsletter for Jon Denton, who has decided to hand the baton to another. Jon's years of experience in editing and writing far surpass mine on a professional level, and I'm hoping I can fill at least one of his shoes. I need content or stories to write about and will drive to chat over a glass of iced tea, so feel free to reach out over any topic, subject, or person you think is good content for our newsletter.

Anyone else who enjoys writing and wants to do research and writing, I encourage it and would be grateful for the help. You don't need to be a professional writer, just a passion for archaeology and an enjoy writing!

Email me: jlktrowelmarks@gmail.com

President's Letter: Ray McAllister

The Oklahoma Anthropological Society will return to the Andrews site near Muldrow, Oklahoma for its annual fall dig, September 15 thru 18, 2022. The society first visited the site the weekend of September 30 2017. Over 90 people enjoyed the fine fall weather at the excavation. Interesting artifacts and features encouraged the society to return to the site in future years



The 2018 dig at the site was rained out, and the society determined try again for a full week in the Spring of 2019. In spite of heavy rains the previous week and a soggy pasture, the society returned to the site May 10th to the 19th to follow up on the 2017 work.



Andrews Dig Site
Photo Credit: Sharon McAllister

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Dr. Scott Hammerstedt's geophysical instruments indicated several promising spots to explore, and society members went to work to uncover what we could.



Andrews Dig Site

Photo Credit: Sharon McAllister

We discovered an intact pot base and a large feature that hinted that this may be a site of extended occupation. Further investigation was curtailed by the Covid pandemic.



Intact Pot Base

Photo Credit: Sharon McAllister

The society returns once more this fall to determine as best we can what was happening at the Andrews site 800 years ago from the clues remaining there. Due to insurance restrictions, participants will need to become members of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

Membership starts at \$20 a year. Students over 18 years old may join for \$10, students under 18 may join with an adult supervisor on site for free. There are other options for family membership. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to help uncover the past of Oklahoma.

Knapping with Neil

Many of us have been pleased to attend one of Neil Garrison's flintknapping demonstrations. If you haven't had the pleasure, I suggest you take the next opportunity to experience his demonstration of past hunter-gatherer tools and weapons and the skill needed to create a sharp flint-knapped tool.



Flint Knapping Artifacts

Photo Credit: Neil Garrison

Neil has extensive knowledge in selecting regional varieties of flint, and his flintknapping talent deserves scholarly notice. Neil fashions biface implements and projectiles from Kay County chert using tools familiar to hunter-gatherers of the era, such as hammerstones, wood mallets, and antlers.



Flint Knapping Demonstration

Photo Credit: Neil Garrison

Neil enjoys passing on his acquired knowledge by teaching his skills and encouraging everyone to create the tools that Oklahoma's first peoples use.



Quartz Mountain Caravan

Bob Blasing is preparing a car trip around the Quartz Mountain archeology sites for late October. Tentatively, we will meet at Quartz Mountain Lodge and tour in a caravan around the area, with Bob Blasing sharing the history and knowledge gained at each site.

We are spending the night at the lodge, but camping is available to those who wish to enjoy a night out under the stars.





Board - April OAS Meeting

In Attendance: Ray McAllister, Sharon McAllister, Mel Phillips, Paul Roberts, Charles Wallis, Bob Blasing, Zachary Qualis Wright, John Denton.

President Ray McAllister opened the April 30 Meeting a 9:35 AM at the OKC Northwest Library.

The election of officers is coming next spring; Bob Blasing, Jon Denton, and Mel Phillips Volunteered to prepare for the process. Elected positions open are President, Vice President, Secretary, Dig Committee Chairman, and Publication Editor.

Bob Sweet provided a written report on OAS finances from January 1, 2022, to April 31, 2022. Highlights show total bank balances, \$1806 in income, and \$1883 in expenses for the period.

Membership Chair Pam Leader showed 139 members as of April 30, down from 152 last year at the same time. By comparison, in April 2016, OAS had 296 members.

Bob Blasing reviewed advertising "Do's and Don'ts" on artifact Identification Day.

President McAllister, Phillips, and Denton discussed finding a new editor of the OAS Trowel Marks. Jon Denton is stepping down after 15 years as editor.

Discussion Noted, "pay to play" with guided leadership from Oklahoma Archaeological Survey.

Board - cont.

The next upcoming event on OAS Calendar is the annual field dig in Muldrow, Oklahoma. Dr, Hammerstedt from the research facility at Oklahoma Archaeological survey will direct volunteers at the Andrews site. Fieldwork will wrap up research at a creek site, 9000 years old. Tentatively set for September.

During the meeting, suggestions for future dig sites in or near Ponca City, Honey Springs, and Madill Creek.

President McAlister suggested Oklahoma City and other chapters attend a Ponca City Chapter meeting to renew friendships and build participation.

Charles Wallis is considering an OAS Bulletin to publish his research on the Ashland Archaeology site in Hughes County; however, scanning tables is challenging.

The board discussed the publication of Phillips Little Skin Bayou in an OAS bulletin. Phil Hayden's, Property report was also suggested as material for the bulletin.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

A New Chapter for OAS

The Oklahoma Anthropological Society welcomes the new Arkoma Basin Chapter in Muldrow, OK. The first meeting was held at Broadway Joe's Restaurant in Muldrow on July 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM.



Arkoma Basin Chapter
Photo Credit: Mel Phillips

From left to right: Jim Wilburn, Sallisaw; Linus Williams, Stigler; Matt Mayo, Stigler; Joe Morgan, Muldrow; Preston Cowan; Muldrow; (before the picture was taken James Riggs had to run home), Muldrow.

The next meeting will be held at their usual spot, Broadway Joe's on September 24th, 2022 at 7pm. They are an enthusiastic group and the chapter (whatever they call it) will grow.

One OAS application was completed at the meeting and everyone there took an application home, plus a couple to take with them. They brought a few items for "Show and Tell" and we had some lively discussions. Mel Phillips plans to attend their meetings as often as he can.

Enjoy a printed OAS Newsletter?

Electronic versions of the OAS Newsletter *Trowel Marks* are sent to all members. Printed newsletters are available for a small fee.

Scan the QR code on your mobile device to go directly to our website.

