

SAA CoAS Newsletter

Council of Affiliated Societies, Society for American Archaeology
Our Mission: To benefit all societies in this field and advance the practice of archaeology

Available on the [SAA website](#) under "About the Society" menu

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FROM THE CHAIR:

By Cathy Poetschat, Oregon Archaeological Society, poetschat@msn.com

The SAA Meeting is soon (April 3-7). We hope you'll come by the CoAS Booth and give us your group's material to display and distribute. Also, we'll be overseeing the SAA Poster Contest with the posters near the CoAS Booth. Vote for your favorite poster at the display. Your ballot for voting is included in your registration materials. And don't forget to attend the CoAS Meeting on Thursday, April 4th at 4 pm.

Thank you CoAS Members! Most of our members renewed for 2013 by the end of 2012. And those who didn't get the notice or their payment went to the wrong place, renewed when they were contacted by email. Thanks! There are four new groups applying to the SAA Board for CoAS Membership who will probably be approved at the Honolulu meeting! Cheers, and welcome new CoAS Members!

FROM THE MEMBERS:

ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By Deborah Sabo, *Field Notes* Newsletter editor

In 2012 Dr. Jamie Brandon again directed the Society Training Program at Historic Washington State Park in Hempstead County. Over 100 members and Arkansas Archeological Survey staff gathered to continue the excavations in the commercial district of the antebellum town of Washington, Arkansas, founded in 1824. The remains of six different structures and three to

five cellars dating from three major periods of activity have now been explored.

The Society elected a new President, Marilyn Knapp, at the 2012 Annual Meeting in September. Marilyn and her husband Paul were recipients of the Society's Distinguished Service Award in 2011. Marilyn Knapp's particular mission during her tenure as President will be to move the Society forward in terms of strengthened use of digital tools for outreach, communication, and Society business; a membership drive; and a secure financial footing for the future. The Society joined Facebook, with a Page administered and monitored by member volunteers, and most Chapters now maintain Pages on Facebook as well.

Recent research of note includes work on musical instruments of the Ozarks by Society Vice President James Rees. Rees has been studying materials from Ozark bluff shelters, excavated during the 1920s and 30s, and curated at the University of Arkansas Museum Collections Facility. He has identified river cane flutes and whistles of several varieties. In particular, his analysis of the Breckenridge flute from a site in Carroll County, Arkansas, is now shown to represent the oldest musical instrument of its type in the Americas. The flute was directly dated with an AMS radiocarbon date, funded by a grant from the Society's Archeological Research Fund (scheduled for publication in *Field Notes* this year).

Also during 2012, the Society published Volume 50 of its annual Bulletin (*The Arkansas Archaeologist*) with articles on an 1880 study of

“Arkansas Mound-builders” (by Don Higgins and Marvin Jeter), musical instruments depicted on the engraved shell artifacts from Spiro (by Jim Rees), and noded ceramics and their possible relation to the use of *Datura* (by George Lankford).

Last but by no means least, we are very proud to report that the Ouachita Chapter of the Society (Florence Davis, President), based in Hot Springs, Arkansas, was recently awarded an Arkansas Heritage Month grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage. This significant grant will enable the Chapter to present a series of displays and public talks showcasing historic structures (including Caddo mounds) and the role of archeology in their interpretation and preservation. The exhibits will be set up at four venues during May 2013 as part of Arkansas Heritage Month. The Chapter will work with Meeks Etchieson (Ouachita National Forest), Mary Beth Trubitt and Vanessa Hanvey (Arkansas Archeological Survey), and Arkadelphia resident Tyler Stumpf to develop this project.

View our website at www.arkarch.org
and our Facebook Page at
www.facebook.com/ArkansasArcheologicalSociety.

KANSAS ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

By Nancy Arendt, KAA President

The Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) is the oldest amateur archeological organization in Kansas. Its membership, averaging 200, is made up of individuals and institutions interested in the prehistoric and historic peoples of the area. The objective and goals of the KAA are the preservation and interpretation of archeological and ethnographic remains within the state; the scientific study, investigation, and interpretation of archeological remains and ethnographical materials; the publication and distribution of information concerning Kansas archeology and ethnology; and the development and promotion of a greater public interest and

appreciation for the heritage of the state. Visit our web site at www.katp.org.

KAA is active throughout the state. Its programs include regular meetings by regional chapters, our annual 16-day Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) field school, Artifact Identification days, Summer Spree, Fall Fling, Certification program, Certification Seminar, and Annual Meeting. Our membership is very good at reaching out to all interested people. Our involvement with the state universities and our field schools are the best tools we have to reach the 20-30 year-old age group. Many of our members are later in age when the family is grown and gone and the "Now I have time for me" and "I always wanted to do this" dreams and attitudes come to life.

Our annual KATP field school gives members an opportunity to get hands-on excavation, lab, and survey experience. In addition to fieldwork we have evening programs on various topics through out the project. Classes that are eligible for college credit through Emporia State University and meet the certification program criteria are offered. The 16-day event has a flexible schedule that gives members the opportunity to participate as their schedules allow. The field school generates interest on the local level and is publicized throughout the state. We get new members each year through the field school and some of those members continue to be involved in KAA. Fool Chief Village, a protohistoric site near Topeka, was the focus of our field school in 2012. This year we will be investigating 14EL311, Billy Dixon Trading Post, and surveying stage stations on the Smoky Hill Trail in southern Ellis County.

The activities vary at Summer Spree, usually in August, and Fall Fling, usually in October. They can be anything from processing artifacts or soils from field school to survey, a class, or an excavation. These are usually two-day events over a weekend and are spaced apart nicely, generating an anticipation of seeing our archaeology family again. On October 20, 2012 Dr. Gina Powell presented “Introduction to Ethno-

botany: Classroom, Laboratory, & Field”. We also processed water screening from Fool Chief Village.

Dr. Brice Obermyer presented “Issues in Indian Country” to our group February 16-17 in Emporia for our Certification Seminar. The Certification program encompasses survey, excavation, lab, and outreach with a specific agenda of classes, required hours of participation, public education, writing for publication, and other criteria. This program helps keep members engaged, focuses on all aspects of archaeology and helps members visualize a goal to accomplish. Enrollment in the certification program is optional.

On April 20, 2013 the KAA will hold our annual meeting in Topeka at the Kansas Historic Society, hosted by the Shawnee Chapter. The theme will be in preparation of the upcoming KATP field school.

Among other things, all of this training prepares the KAA members to assist our state archaeologists with projects all over the state. This helps us know what we do and learn in KAA is making a difference in our state. Some members are very involved in CRM work. Our relationship with archaeology professors and students in higher education is also beneficial. We have worked together at field schools in the past. Some of these students have returned to work with us outside of their academic requirements.

A special tribute must be made to our state's Public Archaeologist, Virginia Wulfkuhle. She is crucial to our organization with her leadership, guidance, knowledge, public education, and organization; the list is unending. She gives tirelessly to us. We are thankful to have such a wonderful person.

MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By Lisa Haney, MAS program manager

Annual Spring Meeting, March 15–17 at the Resort at Port Arrowhead in Lake Ozark.

Meet us in our hospitality suite for the traditional Friday evening reception hosted by the Sedalia-West Central Chapter with beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and plenty of socializing. Be sure to bring your appetite!

Poster and speaking presentations about a variety of archaeological topics will be given all day Saturday. Society publications will be available at a 25–50% discount. Other booksellers will also be present.

The 2013 Koch Lecturer is Dr. L. Mark Raab of the University of Missouri, Kansas City who will present "The Ancient Mariners: 14,000 Years of Archaeology on San Clemente Island, California." You do not have to purchase a banquet ticket in order to attend Dr. Raab's presentation.

We are trying something new at the 2013 Annual Meeting—rather than presentations and a field trip, we will have two workshops on Sunday morning. We think this will appeal to our existing members as well as members of the public. The first will be a Project Archaeology workshop from 8 am to noon. For more information about this workshop, please contact the Society office at lhaney@missouristate.edu.

The second will be an All About Artifacts workshop from 9 am to noon. Society members and the public are invited to bring artifacts for identification and/or display. We will have tables set up for identification purposes, a table for site registration, and a short (20-minute) presentation about the chronology of Missouri archaeology at around 10 am. We welcome displays with any theme, but do ask that the artifacts be from registered sites. Be sure to bring any artifacts that you would like help in identifying or just bring artifacts to share with other members. Absolutely no buying, trading, or selling of artifacts will be permitted at this event.

Archaeological Survey Training and Site Recordation for Missouri Program. The Missouri Archaeological Society is again partnering with the State Historic Preservation Office Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the City of Excelsior Springs, and Missouri State Parks to offer a third season of Archaeological Survey Training and Site Recordation for Missouri.

The program is free to all participants and will involve the training of members of the interested public. Participants do not need to have prior archaeology experience. The program will allow participation by individuals as young as 16 years of age. However, a legally responsible adult must accompany those of 16–17 years of age. Each session is limited to 20 participants.

Two one-week sessions are scheduled for 2013. Each session includes instructional classroom activities, field survey, laboratory analysis, and recordation of identified archaeological resources. The session work week will be Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Instruction will be by professional archaeologists. Certificates will be awarded to individuals upon completion of each 5-day session. Session 1 will be held at Knob Noster State Park on June 10–14. Session 2 will be held at the City of Excelsior Springs on August 5–9.

OREGON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Giving the Gift of PIT

By Matt K. Dawson, Cooperative Program Director, Passport in Time

I am pleased to have been asked to contribute to this month's Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS) newsletter, and do so with specific purpose: to highlight a very special woman and OAS member, Helen Hiczun, and the extraordinary gift she gave to the Passport in Time (PIT) Program and PIT Clearinghouse, which I have had the privilege to operate for the nation on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service. As most of you know, PIT is a volunteer, public outreach program that began in 1989, and is funded by

the aforementioned Forest Service. Since its inception, PIT has grown enormously and is now also partnered with other agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and a few State Parks across the country. We recruit thousands of volunteers each year from all 50 states, Canada, and around the globe to participate on projects dealing with cultural heritage (archaeology, paleontology, historic restoration and preservation, etc.) and serving the national need for public outreach and education where cultural heritage is concerned. Helen loved PIT, and was a long-time veteran of the Program, contributing many hours of her time and dedicating her resources, interest, and expertise to a large number of our various projects. She was also one of the loudest members of PIT's cheering section. Some years ago, when certain members of the government began to question the Program's value, she was one of the first to let the feds know, in no uncertain terms, what her thoughts were on the matter. Since then, as a great many other voices joined her own, PIT's worth has not been debated.

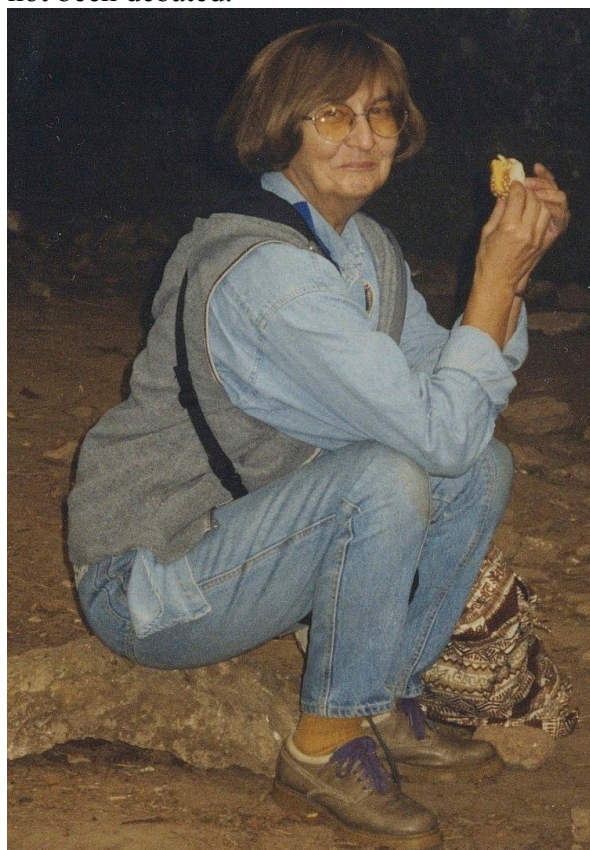


Figure 1. Helen Hiczun, the inspiration for the OAS Helen Hiczun award.

Sadly, in January of 2007 Helen passed away after a valiant battle with cancer. According to her friends and PIT colleagues who worked with her over the years, she was an extraordinary woman, and her loss was palpable. I wish that I had gotten the opportunity to know her, so that I could give yet another account of her and who she was. What I can do is to describe her through a very generous endowment she gave to the PIT Program. Shortly after her passing we were contacted – quite “out of the blue,” in fact – by one of her brothers to inform us that Helen had willed the Program a substantial sum to be used at our discretion for “the betterment and advancement of PIT.” Needless to say, we were astonished by such a gift; pleased and honored, of course, but astonished. We vowed to honor her wishes in the best way possible. As such, the funds have remained untapped since we received them – nothing necessary for the Program has ever truly seemed to match the level of the gift...until now.

The PIT Program has actually been quite well funded to date (though we do hold our breath as the feds approve the budget each year). However, the constraints being put on spending for all of us has also impacted what is and what is not available to the Forest Service budget. Now, don’t worry: there’s no danger to the Program itself. No, we’ll roll on until folks out there decide what we are doing is no longer worthwhile. Of course, with a volunteer base of over 35,000 folks and all the good works that come from the Program, I don’t foresee this happening any time in the near or even distant future. That said, we do have one dilemma.

Actually, the issue exists in a couple of different parts. First, as I’ve stated, we are now partnered with the BLM and a few State Parks; we are also in talks with other agencies that have expressed an interest in aligning their cultural operations with PIT. Add to this mix the fact that many of our long-time PIT Leaders are retiring or plan to do so soon, and sprinkle it all with an influx of Leaders new to PIT. My point? How do we ensure that all of the new Leaders inside and outside the Forest Service get up to speed

on the Program, and how do we ensure we maintain the integrity, quality, and commitment to public service we have had since the Program’s inception? After all, as most familiar with PIT will know, there is no “PIT position,” paid or volunteer, through the Forest Service or any other agency. No, the project leaders take on PIT projects in tandem with all of their other duties, and there is no formal training program for any of the new PIT Leaders, nor budget for time or expense for sending them to the equivalent of “PIT Leader Boot Camp.” In fact, more often than not their preparation for projects consists of a quick read through the PIT Leader Guidebook and a lengthy conversation with the PIT Clearinghouse. Then, into the fire! Some will participate in projects before they run them themselves; lucky ones will work with established Leaders several times before they take over. But, right now, for new project leads there is generally a “hold-your-nose-and-jump-in” inauguration to the PIT Program.

Secondly, there is the issue of awareness of the PIT Program’s existence, even within the Forest Service itself. The BLM consists of hundreds of field offices across the country, and there are generally several in each state. There are nearly as many State Parks out there as there are states, but a good number of states have several Parks, Monuments, Historic Places, and so on within the state that fall under the jurisdiction of the State Parks system. Like the BLM, the Forest Service has multiple offices for a District, but can have multiple Districts on each National Forest, and there is at least one National Forest in nearly every state. One would think, then, with all of these potential hosts, that we could match the enormous, yearly demand for projects. However, long-time PIT veterans will tell you that although we do offer a large number of PIT projects every year, there are always more volunteers than there are opportunities. Why? Because the active hosts from the various states, Forests, Parks, and Field Offices only represent a small percentage of the total possible! In fact, the vast majority on our current list of potential hosts has never run a PIT project – and some have never even heard of PIT!

So, here we have the aforementioned dilemma in all its parts: a lot of PIT volunteers of all experience levels, but whose numbers far exceed the number of available projects each year, many Offices/Forests/Districts/Parks that are unaware of the Program or that do not run projects, even in areas active with PIT, and many new leaders who, although eager and enthusiastic, have a level of knowledge of PIT and its operations that is often junior to some of the longer-term volunteers. This is not to say that the new leaders are anything less than experts in their respective fields, and all of them seem to do a smashing job, but PIT is a new hat – one of possibly many – they suddenly find themselves wearing.

We obviously want to change all of this. PIT's goal is to provide the public with every possible volunteer opportunity we can squeeze beneath the culture heritage and resource management umbrella and make available. We want to provide an ever-increasing diversity in the locations and types of projects offered, and we want to ensure that every project's leaders are informed and well-prepared, not only for the specific work they plan to do, but also the proper operation, maintenance, and care of each PIT project and its volunteers to the standard we have set and expect every time!

This is no small undertaking. It becomes more complex when one considers a) how many active and potential leaders there are among all of the agencies and, b) regardless of how many newly active and potential leaders there are and the resultant number of projects there could be, there is still one single budget for the operation of the whole Program. As I have been alluding throughout, there is no part of this budget that is allocated to training and advertising – none!

The Helen Hiczun PIT Endowment will be singularly responsible for implementing the necessary changes, and our plan is now firmly in place. First, some of the funds will be used to launch an aggressive, inter- and intra-agency advertising campaign for PIT. This will include the development of certain web-based adver-

tisement plug-ins that will become part of welcome screens, which will be noticeable every time an employee logs on to an agency computer. We are also going to develop a project leader-specific flyer or pamphlet on PIT and its merits and importance that will be mailed to every District Office, Field Office, and State Park whose personnel engage in cultural/heritage resource management and could potentially become involved with PIT.

Secondly, we are developing a training program for new PIT Leaders, though it will equally benefit even those Leaders who have been running PIT projects for years. The training will be a "webinar" developed by the PIT Clearinghouse and its host firm, the SRI Foundation. The course will contain live instruction covering all aspects of PIT from project proposal submission to writing meaningful and informative final reports well after the happy (and exhausted) volunteers have left the project area, and will consist of personnel from the PIT Clearinghouse, the Forest Service Washington Office and, of course, several experienced PIT Leaders. Experienced PIT Mentors will also be assigned to each region of the country, and new leaders will follow up with these individuals and with the Clearinghouse when online training is complete. And, lest it be thought that the volunteers would have no voice, we have compiled reports from the thousands of PIT Project Critiques that have been submitted over the years that contain the thoughts, feelings, and insights of the volunteer base as a whole, and specific testimony from select volunteers who have kindly consented to telephone interviews.

One difficulty training of this nature poses is its availability and accessibility to everyone in our vast, target audience of trainees. Other than the obvious aforementioned budgetary issue, this has been one of the larger hurdles preventing endeavors of this nature from taking place, even on a smaller scale, before now. How could each potential attendee at such an event be in the same place at once, and how could each employee who wanted to attend possibly take the time to do so and not take time away from their

regular duties? Thanks to Helen, we have both the answer and the means.

With funds now available for allocation to such training and with the modern conveniences of the Internet, mobile devices, and other tools that every government office, state or federal, has access to, we can make something like this available to huge numbers of potential leaders without any one of them having to leave their own office. The icing on the cake is that we will record the training and then make it available to every agency's employees at the click of a button – and it can be started, paused, rewound, and fast-forwarded as need be without worry of missing anything because of time constraints and, once regular tasks are complete, easily returned to at a soon-to-be project leader's next convenience.

While we are unsure at this point what specific, total dollar amounts of the endowment will be spent on each aspect of the new program, what we do know is that none of it would have been possible without Helen Hiczun's generous gift. Her wish of us was to use the gift to further the PIT Program's growth and quality – its "betterment and advancement" to use her words. We are confident that we will see projects appearing in new places, and with new faces running them, within a short time of the training and advertising program's launch, set for January 1, 2013. It is our hope that she would smile on this endeavor as one well befitting her wish. Thank you, Helen, for giving the gift of PIT to many more, and for ensuring that gift will be available for the next generation!

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

By Marcel Kornfeld (anpro1@uwyo.edu)

Members of the Wyoming Archaeological Society (WAS) will descend on Laramie's Hilton Garden Inn on Friday April 26, 2013 (or earlier) for their annual spring meeting, April 26-28. Organized by the June Frison Chapter of WAS, the spring meeting will feature a Friday evening early bird party (5:30 pm, Salon E), Saturday

business meeting in the morning, followed by paper presentations until 5 pm. The annual banquet set for 6:30 pm in Salon D and E of the Hilton will commence with a cash bar at 5:30 pm in the hallway outside the Grand Ballroom. The banquet speaker will be Dr. David Whitely who will present a program on Petroglyph Dating and Peopling of the Americas, featuring the newest rock art dating techniques. Participants can go on the field trip Sunday morning to the Wyoming Territorial Prison in Laramie.

WAS spring meeting will be held in conjunction with the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists (WAPA). The WAPA meeting will be held all day Friday from 1-4 pm at the University of Wyoming's Ag. Auditorium. Also in conjunction with WAS spring meeting and WAPA is this year's UW anthropology department's 17th annual Mulloy Lecture. The lecture is scheduled for Friday, April 26 at 4:10 pm in Agriculture Auditorium. Dr. Webb Keane will deliver a lecture titled "The Priest, the Commisar, and the Peasant: On the Clash of Semiotic Ideologies."



Figure 2. Hell Gap site, camp area for excavation personnel and visitors.

The WAS summer meeting is planned for the Hell Gap site, owned by the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation, on July 26-28, 2013. Society members and others will be provided tours of this extensive stratified prehistoric site, with its archaeological record covering the entire prehistory and history of this area of Wyoming, but emphasizing the Paleoindian period. Hell Gap

(Figure 2) also sits at the edge of the Hartville Uplift and within short distance to major quartzite and chert quarries as well as National Historic Sites such as Fort Laramie, Oregon Trail Ruts, and Register Cliff. All can easily be visited on the way to or from Hell Gap.

The summer meeting will also host The Wyoming Atl-atl Society and Social Club. The Atl-atl club will set up targets and hold competitions for both professionals and amateur atl-atlists.

Society members and visitors are welcome and encouraged to participate in the variety of activities offered, excavation, lab processing, site maintenance, as well as atl-atl events

Please visit the WAS website for more information <http://www.wyomingarchaeology.org/>.

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