

# CoAS Newsletter

Council of Affiliated Societies, Society for American Archaeology

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## FROM THE CHAIR:

### ARKANSAS

by Hester Davis

The Arkansas Archeological Society has had a great year so far! In early June we had the Training Program as usual, with more registrants than ever before. This is probably because the training site is pretty well known, is a Historic Landmark, is close to Little Rock, and is a State Park. Also the Survey Archeologist for that Research Station did an excellent job publicizing the project around the central part of the state. There were over 100 people there over the 18 days (not all at once) and three small remnants of mounds were tested.

Another successful event was the Annual Meeting a few weeks ago in Hot Springs, celebrating our 50th anniversary. Again, registration and attendance was greater than ever before—140 people attended the banquet and talk by Brian Fagan, professor emeritus of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

## FROM THE MEMBERS:

### KANSAS

#### 2010 KANSAS ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP

By Mary Conrad

The Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) and the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) once again joined together in the Kansas Archeological Training Program (KATP), the annual field school initiated in 1974 for public involvement. The 2010 KATP concentrated on the Eastep Site, located on the south bank of the Verdigris River near Sycamore, Kansas, which is situated between Neodesha and Independence.

The KATP headquarters was located in the North Lawn Elementary School in Neodesha. On a Friday afternoon, June 4<sup>th</sup>, trainees transformed a part of the school into a registration area, a catalog room, a wash lab, classrooms, and a camping area. By the next morning, the KATP was in full swing and continued until supplies were packed at the site and at the school on June 20th.

Each participant attended an orientation about the site and the logistics of the project at the beginning of the first day

of attendance. This is the first year that brand new trainees could not go to the field on the first weekend during the establishment of grids. All new trainees worked in the lab that first weekend after attending the required Principles of Archeology designed for first timers.

National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) folks had recommended stabilization of a section of the Verdigris riverbank that is eroding rapidly. Before the execution of grading and the addition of riprap to eliminate erosion, KSHS archeologist John Tomasic and a crew investigated the site for two weeks in the fall of 2009.

The 2010 research design expanded investigations to the south of the river where both Late Archaic and Early Ceramic components, including Cuesta-styled pottery, had been observed on the surface south of the river in the fall of 2009. For a number of days, all of the June crew worked in that area away from the rising river when June rains flooded the digging area for a few days.

Due to what had been recovered in the past couple of years, archeologists consider the Eastep Site to be multicomponent with an Early Cuesta manifestation above a Late Archaic one. The KATP excavators found artifacts consistent with these eras, although the dating of all possible radiocarbon samples has not yet occurred. Three of the four radiocarbon dates resulting from the fieldwork of late 2009 indicate components of the site date to as early as 2,000-plus years ago, which would be consistent with Terminal Archaic.

On the bench along the river, KATP June excavators found considerable amounts of chert flakes and shells with some bone fragments, but they did not recover any recognized tools as the fall excavators had. Away from the river, KATP workers not only recovered chert flakes, shells, and bones, but also recognizable fragments of tools, including points that could be Late Archaic or Early Ceramic.

Longtime KATPers, both professional and avocational, recognized some cherts while other rocks were unfamiliar. Some of the professionals speculated that the unfamiliar cherts might have come from the nearby Ozarks. Flakes of a translucent Vaseline-colored chert baffled many. Opinions varied as to whether Knife River flint

could be that light in color. Two flakes of obsidian also were recovered.

### MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2010 MAS Summer Camp Report

by Silas Wood

This summer it became my privilege to spend a week with about 15 other people at Knob Noster State Park participating in the MAS Pilot Outreach Survey Program. But, before I go any further let me introduce myself. My name is Silas Wood and I am a 16-year old homeschooled student about to enter my junior year. I have been a student member of MAS for two years. The purpose of the camp was to survey a localized area of Knob Noster State Park, which like 90% of Missouri state parks had not been surveyed in the past.

Our first day was spent overviewing the beginnings of archaeology and we learned how to use field equipment. We learned it began in the 1500s with people going out and looking for artifacts to bring home and hang on the walls. Although there are now strict laws against looting and many sites are protected by the Cultural Resources legislation, it is up to the people to enforce them. We learned how to use a compass and GPS for setting up a grid and marking shovel test pits.

The second day, we spent the morning learning what different soil layers are called and how to set up a grid pattern. We also learned how to use a sifting screen and other tools. We watched some slide shows in the evenings showing artifacts from other Missouri sites.

For the work we were doing, we broke into two-to-four person teams. Each team dug a 30-x-30-x-40 cm test pit to help identify the dimensions of the site. We sifted through dirt dug from the test pits to find artifacts and recorded what we found and at what depth for each of the test pits. To keep track which artifacts came from which test pits, each test pit was assigned a number from one up. The best find consisted of a grindstone and nut-cracking stone, which was found side by side on Thursday. The last day, I helped in the artifact cleaning lab. We cleaned the artifacts, first dry cleaning the sandstone artifact and then wet cleaning the pieces of chert. We had to dry the pieces because there wasn't enough time for them to air dry.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the archaeologists who took time out of their life to teach me and help me grow as a member of the MAS. Thanks also to those who gave the grant allowing this to happen. Camp was hard work, but also lots of fun with sharing meals and kitchen duties, swimming and plenty of watermelon during the hot afternoon lunches. Special thanks to the MAS for allowing me to participate in the dig.

This article is excerpted from the upcoming issue of the *MAS Quarterly*. In that article the editors explain that the first session of the survey program was conducted in May at Minor, Santa Fe, and Smith parks in Kansas City. The second was held in July at Knob Noster State Park. Each session was well attended and included instructional classroom activities, field survey, laboratory analysis, and recordation of identified archaeological resources. Two additional sessions are planned for the summer of 2011.

### OREGON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2010 Basic Training

by Steve Satterthwaite

Once again, the 2010 OAS Basic Training program drew people interested in learning more about archaeology and how to be a volunteer on archaeological projects. The classes ran for six Saturdays from late January to mid-March and were held at the Portland Community College-Rock Creek campus. The course is co-sponsored by the Oregon Archaeological Society, Washington County Museum and Portland Community College. The intent of the classes is to act as a public outreach program to inform the general public about archaeology in the northwest and the advantages of belonging to the Oregon Archaeological Society.

Attendance was up significantly this year, probably reflecting a not so pessimistic view of the northwest economy. There were 36 members who attended the full session and another five who came to the first two classes. The first two segments provide general information about northwest archaeology and are open to the general public, whereas the last four segments are for OAS members only.

The Basic Training program is the single main source of new members and this year we attracted 30 individuals and families. This year was a little unusual in that we had six current OAS members who also took the classes. These are generally people who join the OAS after the Basic Training classes are finished for the year.

The Basic Training program has always been a success because of the tremendous support provided by the OAS member volunteers and the support of the northwest archaeological community. Each year we have had members such as Dr. Jim Keyser, George Poetschat, Mike Taylor, Chelsea Browne, Dennis Torresdal, and Dave Kaiser give presentations during the first two sessions on various aspects of Northwest archaeology and OAS volunteer opportunities. We also have had presentations by US Forest Service archaeologists, such as Rick McClure and Marge Dryden.

During the last four sessions this year, we had Dr. Pat O'Grady from the University of Oregon present two classes on archaeological excavation and laboratory work.

Mike and Marge Dryden, US Forest Service archaeologists, presented two classes on compass skills and archaeology field survey skills.

The often-unseen manpower that makes the Basic Training program such a complete success are the OAS member volunteers who provide the one-on-one support that is critical during the last four segments. These individuals help during both the first two sessions and also the practice activities that are a significant portion of the instruction. When there are 36 students, it's important to break up the class into much smaller work groups and that is where the OAS volunteer is indispensable in providing help. In addition, the OAS volunteers make certain that each participant feels welcomed and has an opportunity to ask questions about the organization and volunteer activities. It is very rewarding to note that a high percentage of this year's Basic Training participants have signed up for the University of Oregon field school, the Stewardship committee, or other volunteer activities that occurred after training was completed.

This year the OAS volunteers for Basic Training included Chelsea Browne, Jana Basden, Jeff Groth, Rich Knox, John Rice, Carl Petterson, Robert David, Ruth Selig, Denise Cramer Hershey, Glenda Satterthwaite and Jennifer Kozik. Jennifer Kozik deserves special recognition in that she has also been the coordinator between Portland Community College, Washington County Museum and the Oregon Archaeological Society, which is a time consuming and critical job.

I would like to take this time to personally thank everyone who, without their help, the Basic Training program would not happen.

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES**

Thursday, April 15, 2010

75th Anniversary Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, St. Louis, Missouri

Hester Davis, President of CoAS, began the annual business meeting of the Council of Affiliated Societies at 4:10 pm, Thursday, April 15, 2010, in the Landmark 5 room of the Concourse Building of the Renaissance Grand in St. Louis.

By 4:13 pm the following individuals were in attendance: Hester Davis (AR), President; Gina Powell (MO), editor; Alice Berkson (IL); Lauren W. Ritterbush (KS), Secretary Marcel Kornfeld (WY)

The following announcements were made and briefly discussed:

- Arizona Archaeological Society has renewed its membership.

- Karen S. Hartgen is replacing Jonathan Driver as the new liaison between CoAS and the Board of Directors of the Society for American Archaeology.

### **Reports**

#### President's Report:

- Hester reported that she was unable to accomplish much this past year in terms of CoAS business because of a recent move.

#### Vice President's Report:

- Cathy Poetschat was unable to attend this year's SAA meeting.

- Hester reported that Cathy had sent materials for the CoAS booth in the Exhibit Hall of the SAA Annual Meeting.

#### Secretary's Report:

- The 2009 minutes were distributed.

#### Newsletter Report:

- Gina Powell reported that she needs contact information for one person with each association so that she can request contributions for the newsletter.

- An updated membership list is needed. Lauren has agreed to assist with this, but was told that Kevin Fahey, the Manager of Membership and Marketing for the SAA, should be able to provide this. *Editors note: Kevin Fahey has been replaced by Meghan Tyler*

- Gina encouraged associations to send contributions to her for the CoAS newsletter. She will accept society newsletters from which she can extract contributions. It was noted that previous editors usually received newsletters from different states (e.g., NY, CA).

- Gina's report was followed by discussion of various state societies and their newsletters. Alice spoke about Illinois and the relationship between the different organizations in that state (e.g., the professional Illinois Archaeological Survey, the avocational Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology, the Illinois State Archaeological Society, which produces the Central States Archaeological Journal, and Illinois State Archaeological Survey [formerly ITARP-Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program]), while other commented on other state organizations.

### **Membership**

- Hester briefly discussed CoAS membership. Kevin Fahey (SAA staff) manages the membership list and payments and notifies organizations.

### **Relations with the SAA**

- The relationship between CoAS and the SAA was discussed. It was agreed that a working relationship exists, despite limited contact between CoAS and the Board of Directors.

### **Membership Drive**

- There was some discussion of earlier membership drives.

•It was agreed that we need to start with the list of members maintained by Kevin, then look online for each society in order to identify contact individuals.

•Also there is a need to find out how and when Kevin contacts these organizations.

#### **Poster Session**

•A poster session entitled “Avocational Archaeology Making a Difference: Who’s Done it and Who’s Doing It” was organized by Marcel Kornfeld and sponsored by CoAS at this SAA meeting. It was held today, but was split between morning and afternoon because of some initial confusion by the SAA program coordinators whether the session was a symposium or a poster session. The twelve posters discussed the contributions of avocational archaeologists in as many states.

•Generally the impression of those who presented or viewed the posters was that it was a successful session. Much interaction and interest was noted during the session.

•Marcel reported that Thames and Hudson publishers have expressed an interest in publishing the session, but would prefer international examples also be included. We would want a publisher, such as this with wide distribution, but did not include international examples in this session.

•There are no plans to sponsor another session at a future SAA meeting.

•Other ideas were solicited. One possibility mentioned was a Forum to discuss issues, bylaws, volunteer training sessions, or other topics (e.g., what is unique about each society).

•Alice wondered what happened to the public sessions and one-day registration that had been offered at several previous SAA meetings. It was agreed that our liaison needs to discuss this with the SAA Board of Directors. It was noted that the SAA Public Education Committee used to be in charge of this, but they may have other priorities. *Editor’s note: Meghan Tyler informed me that there never was a one-day registration*

•Present members wondered if a CoAS officer could present ideas to the Board, especially if the liaison is not present or if there were other ways to communicate with the Board.

#### **CoAS Booth and Archaeology Week posters**

•Gina offered to help post the Archaeology Week posters or to help count ballots.

•Hester and Gina agree to staff the CoAS booth Friday afternoon and could count the ballots in the afternoon.

#### **Nominations/Elections for CoAS Offices**

•Hester Davis agreed to serve again as President/Chair (since she felt she had not accomplished much over the past year).

•Cathy Poetschat (not present) was nominated for Vice-President/Chair

•Lauren is unable to commit to the position of Secretary, thus, a nominee is needed.

•Although not a formal officer position, Gina Powell volunteered to continue with the newsletter.

•Marcel moved that we accept the following nominations: Hester Davis for President/Chair; Cathy Poetschat for Vice-President/Chair; Gina Powell for newsletter editor. This was seconded by Alice. These were unanimously approved at 5:20 pm.

#### **General Discussion and Announcements**

•Marcel discussed the newsletter and spring meeting of the Wyoming Archaeological Society. He described the William T. Mulloy Undergraduate Scholarship that has been awarded since 1960 to a University of Wyoming undergraduate student in anthropology. In honor of the 50th anniversary of this award, this year it was presented by the University President, who promised to match the award.

•Hester noted that the Arkansas Archaeological Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary. She noted that one active member compiled a picture book in honor of the anniversary. She also noted that a deceased member bequeathed \$50,000 to the association. It will be used for educational purposes. She also noted the AAS archaeological research fund.

•Alice mentioned the Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology endowment fund, established at its 10th anniversary. It is used for small grants for a variety of project (e.g., radiocarbon dates, the Cahokia Museum dugout canoe exhibit). This society (like others) is facing the problem of not attracting younger members.

•Other awards of various societies were also noted.

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Council of Affiliated Societies was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren W. Ritterbush  
Kansas State University

#### **COAS OFFICERS**

Hester Davis, Chair  
Arkansas Archeological Society  
2475 N. Hatch  
Fayetteville, AR 72704  
[hadavis@uark.edu](mailto:hadavis@uark.edu)

Cathy Poetschat, Vice Chair  
Oregon Archaeological Society  
13255 SW Glenhaven St.  
Beaverton, OR 97005  
[Poetschat@msn.com](mailto:Poetschat@msn.com)

Gina Powell, Newsletter Editor  
Missouri Archaeological Society  
Kansas City, MO 64110  
[ginsuguard-coas@yahoo.com](mailto:ginsuguard-coas@yahoo.com)