

Professional Archaeologists of Kansas Newsletter

Number 1, November 1997

Greetings

The Board of Directors at its first meeting decided that communication among the professional archaeologists within the state—which, after all, is one of the purposes of an organization such as PAK—would be enhanced by the publication of a Newsletter. Thus, along with membership information, we present the debut issue of the *PAK Newsletter*. This issue has been assembled in rather short order following the October 30 meeting in Wichita, and therefore is quite a bit thinner than we envision to be the norm. I thank those individuals who provided me with research news and with dates and places of upcoming events. With the material at hand, I have established three sections for this issue: PAK News, Research News, and a calendar of up-coming meetings and events. Although I cannot imagine dropping any of these sections in future newsletters, I certainly can imagine adding to them such headings as new publications listings, report abstracts, information on State or Federal legislation affecting professional archaeologists, new faces, whatever—as well, of course, as research news from as many people as possible. I know paper and postage are not getting any cheaper, but I figure we can mail about 5 or 6 sheets of paper for 32¢ (and twice that for 55¢, but half that for the same 32¢, so we might as well try to get our money's worth). With a 10-point font, semi-narrow margins, and front-back printing, we can get a lot into a single issue. BUT, all this will be just arithmetic and layout theory without your input. So, folks, let's hear from you. The target date for the next *Newsletter* is mid-March 1998, so let's say early March for material to be included (that's about the time of the Flint Hills Conference, so when you get your conference stuff ready, send me a summary for this venue). In addition to being able to read disk files in a variety of formats, I have a scanner with highly reliable OCR software and can FTP text sent by e-mail, so almost any way you want to send it (almost) will work for me and I won't be slaving away retyping it. You can reach me at 1924 Bluehills Road, Manhattan, Kansas 66502, e-mail: droper@ksu.ksu.edu.

----- Donna C. Roper

PAK News

About 30 archaeologists from around the state assembled in the Kansas Room of the Wichita State University Student Union on October 30 to discuss "The Future of Archaeology in Kansas." PAK President Alfred Johnson convened the meeting. Nine items were on the agenda. 1) Al Johnson introduced PAK, describing what it is about and explaining its intent. 2) There was considerable discussion of the Kansas Archaeological Training Program. Archaeologists from the KSHS reviewed the problem from the standpoint of developments within that agency and the officers of the KAA indicated their hopes for the program. There was open discussion of how other institutions and individuals can help. 3) The status of Kansas Archaeology Week was reviewed. There will be a poster this year, but not a curriculum. There was a discussion of ways to help defray costs. 4) An effort will be made to increase communication by using e-mail. 5) The proposed PAK meeting format was presented. Pending agreement with other organizations, it is suggested that PAK hold an annual meeting in the winter (ca. Feb/March) and hold it in conjunction with meetings of the Kansas Antiquities Commission (KAC) and the Board of Directors of the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA). A second meeting, probably in the fall, would be a meeting of the KAC and the PAK Board. 6) There was a discussion of various crm concerns that have been raised. 7) Wichita's City Archaeologist—Urban Archaeology program was described and the possibility of it being a model for a broader program was put forth. 8) Barry Williams gave an overview of the state GIS initiative. 9) About one-third of the meeting was devoted to talk about archaeology. Attendees briefly described the work they and/or their organization are conducting.

Research News

Recent work at WSU includes a shoreline survey of Swanson Reservoir in western Nebraska, done at a time of low water level. Scheduling the survey in October allowed access to the bases of high cut banks that are inaccessible in the summer. They yielded several pieces of fossil bone, but nothing in an archaeological context. Cut banks on the south side of the lake contained paleosols, but no sites. Two historic farmsteads were found on the north side at about the midpoint of the shoreline. West of that point, the shore was covered with recent sediment, and the major tributary creek inlets were likewise obscured.

Don Blakeslee continues work on the Coronado campsite in Texas. Work there has delimited the main Spanish camp and three outlying small camps, all of which are located where Indian trails cross the otherwise impassable canyon walls. The main site is located at a ford of the White River. David Walters, a graduate student, has received private funding to survey a ranch at Quitaque Peaks, a Comanchero rendezvous area and another spot that Coronado may have visited. Brad Cole, another student, is preparing a proposal to survey the leg of the Coronado route in the Galisteo Basin. A third student, Frank Gagne, is finishing a thesis on the crossbow bolts from the Coronado and De Soto expeditions. The next work in Blanco Canyon is scheduled for the first full week of January; volunteers are welcome.

Donna Roper is working with Great Bend aspect material from Marion. She investigated a portion of 14MN515 in 1996 in advance of the construction of the force main line of the East Marion Interceptor Sewer Project. Four features, three of which were compound cache pits, were excavated. Flotation of the fill and sorting of the flotation fractions continued well into 1997 but now are complete and the analysis of the collection is well advanced. For a broader perspective on settlement in the Marion area, Donna also is working with the pottery and chipped stone portions of the collection from 14MN328 which the KSHS excavated in 1986 in advance of the construction of the relocated U.S. 56.

Donna Roper and KSU students have also conducted a number of other smaller projects. 1) They have traveled north of the border to continue work in the Medicine Creek valley in Frontier County, Nebraska. Limited excavations at several Upper Republican sites have been directed toward salvage of eroding features and toward extramural activity areas. This work is being conducted under a cooperative agreement with the BOR. 2) Under contract with USA-CERL, they surveyed selected LCTA (Land Condition Trend Analysis) monitoring plots on Fort Riley. No sites were found during this survey. 3) With internal funding from the university, they are surveying for archaeological sites on the land to be affected by construction of KSU's new world-class golf course. Several historic farmsteads lie on this property.

Calendar of Upcoming Meetings and Events

November 19-22, 1997 — Plains Conference, Boulder, Colorado

Feb-March (exact date and place to be announced) — Professional Archaeologists of Kansas annual meeting

March 6-7, 1998 — 20th Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Anadarko, Oklahoma; contact Dr. Timothy G. Baugh, Southwest Archaeological Consultants, P.O. Box 8617, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

(Note: this is a different date than previously announced; the date was changed after it was found that the previously announced date conflicts with the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Seattle)

March 25-29, 1998 — Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, Seattle, Washington

April 5-11 — Kansas Archaeology Week — Theme: A Stitch in Time