

Professional Archaeologists of Kansas Newsletter

Number 23

July 2009

This is an extra newsletter for 2009. A number of things have come up to communicate to members before the next regularly scheduled newsletter in the fall, so we decided a short summer newsletter would be in order. Read carefully - while there are some pure news items here, there also are several items asking for action/reaction or input and we would hope to be getting some responses. DCR

PAK Presidential Transition

July 1 marked the beginning of Bob Blasing's term as PAK President. Past President Virginia Wulfkuhle had served from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009; Bob's term will run July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012. Each has provided a statement for this newsletter. Additionally, the Board of Directors held a transition meeting on May 1, 2009 to bring Bob up to speed. A summary of that meeting follows the statements from the outgoing and incoming presidents.

Remarks from outgoing President Virginia Wulfkuhle

"Measuring the Past: A Timeline of Kansas Archaeology" arrived from the printer on the last day of Kansas Archaeology Month, April 30, 2009. It is quite handsome, if I do say so. We had ordered 7,000 copies, and Jostens Printing Company printed more than 7,500, so we have an ample supply.

Kansas Anthropological Association volunteers stuffed envelopes for the first class mailing to PAK members and the bulk mailing to almost 1,000 addresses. PAK board members each took a box to distribute. Brochures were handed out to participants and the general public at the Kansas Archeology Training Program field school in Scott County in June. Each PAK member is urged to request a supply of these brochures and to distribute them widely.

In addition, webmaster Scott Shackelford has posted the brochure on the PAK web site. To copyright the text and Christine Ewing's original drawings and design, the following notice is prominently displayed: No part of these articles (including photographs or drawings) may be used or reproduced in any manner or format whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations (less than 50 words) embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information or permission, contact: mail@ksarchaeo.info.

In 2010 I do not expect to be involved in Kansas Archaeology Month planning for the first time in 16 years. My best wishes go to Bob Blasing and the KAM committee for a meaningful observance. I do intend to continue to bring the organization news of Project Archaeology and urge PAK members to become involved in that education program.

Remarks from incoming President Bob Blasing

As incoming president, it will be difficult for me to match the efforts that our outgoing president, Virginia Wulfkuhle, has made in keeping people involved, and in moving the organization forward. I am very grateful to Virginia for graciously calling a meeting of the PAK Board, to brief me on the current status of affairs and to discuss the future actions that we need to be planning. During the next few years, we will face major challenges in continuing some PAK activities. This will be due to both decreasing budgets and decreasing amount of time employers may allow for key contributors to spend on these activities. My personal challenge will be to effectively plan and participate in activities from my current remote location, down south of the border. To a large degree, I will have to be dependent on the internet, to provide communications with the other officers, committee chairs, and the membership.

My greatest priority will be to continue support and enhancement of the excellent communications tools that PAK has already put in place. This of course includes the newsletter, CAK, the PAK web site, and the PAK-L list server. I hope you all will continue to support and contribute to these efforts. I have discussed the possibility of

supplementing these with an online work group, where all members could view, discuss, upload or download photos, files or links. If implemented, this would be aimed at supplementing PAK-L and the web site, and in no way to replace either function. I have done some testing, and technically this can be done. I will be discussing this with more of you to see if this feature would be used by and useful to our members.

I also want to encourage efforts to continue other excellent products of PAK, such as the Kansas Archeology Month brochures, calendar, and speakers, Project Archaeology, and many other activities of our various committees. I will be contacting the committee chairs over the next several weeks, and hope to get together with committee members who attend either the upcoming Fall Meeting or the Plains Conference in Norman, so that we can discuss the activities of their respective groups. Please contact me with any ideas you may have on new better ways to pursue the goals of PAK, or on any issues you feel that PAK should be more involved in. I look forward to working with everyone, and hope we can continue the very productive efforts of PAK that have been initiated over the last several years.

Summary of Board of Directors Meeting - May 1, 2009

The PAK Board of Directors met on May 1, 2009 at President-elect Bob Blasing's cabin at Council Grove Lake, Council Grove, Kansas. The meeting was intended to be, and largely was, a transition meeting as the presidency passes to Bob from Virginia Wulfkuhle. To this end, while the agenda resembled a usual meeting's agenda, the discussion was less about the issues themselves than it was about the scope and status of these issues. The membership, status, and activities of all committees were reviewed. The same was true for Old Business items. Items of New Business,

since they were new business, engendered somewhat more actual discussion of the issue. The KAM 2009 brochure—the Kansas archaeology timeline—had come back from the printer the day before (4 PM on the last day of KAM!) and they are now available for distribution. We also discussed a spot on Kansas Public Radio, but did not exactly initiate that. We also had a discussion of the book *Archaeology for Dummies* that we had recently discovered existed. We are finding ways to review the book in various venues. A threat to the Renner site (23PL1) in Missouri was discussed,

although it appears that this matter now is over. An important discussion concerned the accomplishments of and goals for the organization. Several members discussed their perception of the organization's accomplishments over the years, highlighting what we have been successful at and not so successful at. No specific goals for the coming years were formulated at this time, but the discussion gave Bob some points to contemplate as he seeks to define goals for his presidency.

Membership list update

As with any organization, our membership list is dynamic and members change addresses, phone numbers, and/or e-mail addresses periodically. We - especially Membership Committee chair Jim Dougherty - have been trying to clean up the list and get contact information as current as possible. Please remember to contact Jim, or Tim, or Donna with any updated contact information.

Call for nominations for a Public Service Award

The Board of Directors is seeking nominations for a Public Service Award to be presented in the spring of 2010. This award was created a few years ago and has been presented twice. The first award was presented in spring of 2006 to Janel Cook and the Coronado-Quivira Museum for their support of the Little River Archaeology Project. The second was presented in the spring of 2007 to Kathy Fox for her donation of the site of Hard Chief's village to the Archaeological Conservancy.

The definition of and criteria for this award are reprinted below and are available on the home page of our website. Nominations must be made in writing and can be sent to either the President or the Secretary for consideration at the fall board meeting. The Board does not formally vote to present the award, but rather considers nominations and recommends a nomination for approval by the full membership. Note that although it has been proposed that PAK create and present an award for avocational archaeologists, a definition of and criteria for such an award have never been adopted. In spite of the wording "outside the archaeological *profession*" in the Public Service Award, it probably really should just say outside of archaeology, meaning the recipient does not normally participate in archaeology either by profession or by avocation - that, at least, is the intention.

PAK Public Service Award: Definition and Criteria

Definition: The Public Service Award is made to an individual and/or organization outside the archaeological profession who has made an important contribution to preserving archaeological resources or to promoting public awareness of Kansas' archaeological heritage.

Implementation: A written nomination is given to the PAK Board, via the Secretary prior to the Annual Meeting. The Board members consider the nomination and, if they agree with the nomination, they take the recommendation for an award to the membership at the Annual Meeting. The members vote on it at the meeting. The award consists of a plaque.

The award does not have to be annual, or it can be, but can be made as circumstances warrant. It will be presented during Kansas Archaeology Month and, in presenting it, we hope to get at least local media coverage of that presentation. While circumstances may occasionally dictate otherwise, the award presentation should be made by the PAK President and the person who nominated the recipient.

Merchandise and Book Sales

New merchandise ideas needed!

Kansas Archaeology Month costs PAK around 2-3 thousand dollars a year. The Finance Committee solicits donations each year, and each year some donations are received, but in these economic times, donations are down and, in any event, they have never fully covered the cost. Additional fund-raising efforts via sales of t-shirts, hankies, and other merchandise therefore remains critical to our fund-raising efforts and have helped us immensely. We currently have t-shirts, Handy Hypotenuse Hankies, note pads, and, yes, a few 2006 calendars (with very nice photographs). **We need ideas for new merchandise items!** This can include a new t-shirt design or designs and suggestions for new products. We probably prefer things that are not too bulky since we store them at people's houses and transport them to meetings by pickup truck. Any suggestions you have are welcome and we'd really appreciate any designs for shirts. We'd really prefer to not use cutsey sayings, such as "my life is in ruins" or "we don't do dinosaurs," and would prefer something both more professional-looking and more original - we do well with Handy Hypotenuse Hankies because of their novelty (and practicality). Contact Marsha King (marshak@ksdot.org), chair of the Finance Committee, or Shannon Ryan (shannonryan1@gmail.com), who coordinates merchandise, with ideas. We'd really like to have new things before the Plains Conference - in fact, we really *need* new things by then.

Book sale donations needed

We've done a used book sale at the Plains Conference in the last several years, and because of some very generous donations of some very desirable books (and maps), we have had considerable success with that. We have virtually nothing

of any note left, however. If we are to have any success at the upcoming conference in Norman, we will need more books. If you have books to donate for this purpose, contact Donna Roper since she is the one who transports the books every year (and will happily do so again).

Polo Shirts

Some of us have been discussing the idea of getting polo shirts with the PAK logo (the rock art with the words Kansas Archaeology) on them. This came up recently since PAK members have been doing things like participating in the education program of Symphony in the Flint Hills or presenting workshops. Our t-shirts are good for a lot of things but something a little more dressy is preferable for programs such as these. A polo shirt is a good compromise in many situations. We can get a 60% cotton/40% polyester polo with embroidered logo for \$19 (presumably plus tax) *if* we can get minimally 12 of them. Available colors include forest green, royal blue, purple, corporate blue, red, khaki, maroon, seafoam, yellow, white, black, and a maybe a few other colors. Available sizes are S to 3XL Mixing colors in an order is no problem. We have artwork on file so there is no setup charge.

If you are interested, let Donna know by say early August and we'll do it if we can get enough takers (er, buyers). We will need to know what color and size you want.

We might note that this is not really a fund-raising thing, but a way to have these available to members who would like them. As this newsletter goes out, we are most of the way to a dozen.

Other News and Events

Symphony in the Flint Hills

PAK members participated in the education program at Symphony in the Flint Hills on June 13, 2009. Donna Roper was a presenter in one of the education tents, talking about the Great Bend occupation at Marion (the concert was less than 20 miles from there, farther down the Cottonwood River valley). She presented it twice - the first time at the very beginning of the day's events when not a lot of people had arrived yet, the second time a couple hours later to an SRO audience. Meanwhile, Bob Blasing attended a large print-out of the interior portion of the timeline brochure - the actual timeline - and talked about archaeology with a lot of people who were going in and out of the prairie walks tent where our poster was set up. Bob also saw what other exhibitors were doing and got a lot of ideas for future years. A few days before the concert, Donna Roper and Lauren Ritterbush did a reconnaissance of the SFH location to ensure that the event would not affect any archaeological sites. One of the good things to come out of that was a chance to visit for a few minutes with SFH executive director Emily Hunter and talk about archaeology in the Flint Hills. Fortunately Lauren had a couple copies of the timeline brochure with her and gave them to Emily. We plan to continue to participate in SFH, look at the location for sites, and maintain contact with concert organizers to ensure that the education part of the event continues to recognize that humans have lived in and loved the Flint Hills for many millennia.

Contact information

President Bob Blasing - rblasing@usbr.gov
Secretary Donna Roper - droper@ksu.edu
Treasurer Tim Weston - TWeston@kshs.org

People News

PAK members Margaret Beck and Matt Hill are the proud parents of a son, Oscar Hill, born May 30, 2009. Margeret and Matt were graduate students at KU in the 1990s, and now are on the faculty at the University of Iowa. A recent e-mail from Margaret says Oscar is "growing like a weed."

Past President Brad Logan's father, William Logan of Clay Center, Kansas, passed away in May at the age of 90. Our sympathies to Brad and his family.

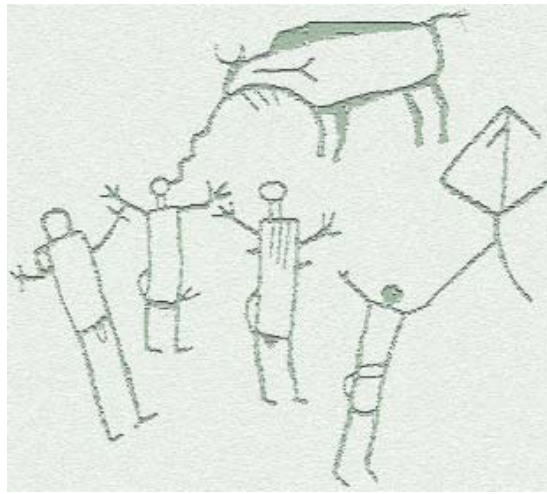
Kyle Leithoff, husband of former PAK member Aimee Rosario Leithoff, passed away in early June after suffering a massive brain aneurysm a few days earlier. Kyle and Aimee lived in Virginia, where Kyle was in the Navy. In addition to Aimee, Kyle leaves a 3-year old daughter and a son born only a week earlier. Our deepest condolences to Aimee and her children.

Jay Dee Whiteford passed away in late April. As an 8-year old in 1936, Jay assisted his parents, Guy and Mabel Whiteford, with their excavation of the Indian Burial Pit at Salina. He had retained an interest in the site and had provided some information used in the recent comprehensive study of its history and archaeology. Jay and his wife Sheila lived in Hawaii.

Upcoming Events

September 2009 - Fall PAK meeting at KU in Lawrence; exact date and meeting room to be determined

October 14-17, 2009 - Plains Conference, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Professional Archaeologists of Kansas

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