

BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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KAS FIELD TRIP

KAS ANNUAL COST-FREE FALL FIELD TRIP IS AROUND THE CORNER! The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is the spot. Saturday, September 27th is the day - 9:30 A.M. is the time. Assembly point is U.S. Park Service Headquarters Building (the old ranch house) which is a mile or so north of Strong City on state highway 177/57 in Chase County. See the map for details.

That is the good news! Now comes the bad news! Attendance is limited to 30 people. The area to be visited is around Palmer Creek in the far northwestern part of the park. This area is not open to the public and that limits the number of visitors and vehicles.

It probably will take 45 minutes to an hour to reach the field trip area from the headquarters building. Considering that there are five presenters who each will take about a half hour, the whole trip, in and out, will take about five hours. There are no restroom facilities and it goes without saying that there is no smoking. Wear comfortable walking boots or shoes and since there is no water, carry enough to drink and eat. Presentations will be made by:

Rex Buchanan (Kansas Geological Survey)
- geology and water

Bill Busby (Kansas Biological Survey) - birds

Tom Eddy (Empona State University) - botany
Rolfe Mandel (Kansas Geological Survey) - archeology, maybe geomorphology
Greg Smith (Empona State University) - mammals
Gene Towne(Kansas State University) - range management

The Park Service staff may possibly make some remarks. It is regrettable but a fact that **reservations are required** since there is a limit on attendees. It has required more than a year of negotiating to arrange this trip and the limit is an imposed one. **If you plan to attend this trip, phone Rex Buchanan at (785)864-2106 or e-mail him at rex@kgs.ku.edu.** Please advise Rex whether you can bring a four-wheel drive vehicle. **Remember the trip is 27 September so the first thirty calling will get to go.** This may well be your one chance to visit this otherwise non-accessible area. Don't miss it!

(Map omitted in the web version of the BULLETIN)

WHAT A SPRING 2003 ANNUAL MEETING!

If you weren't at Pittsburg, Kansas on 11 and 12 April, you missed a great meeting. There were more than 90 attendees who presented and/or heard many fine papers. The plenary speaker, Dr. James Duke, presented two outstanding lectures concerning ethnobotany and the natural therapeutic benefits of herbs and other plants. If you haven't attended an annual meeting, you should do so. What a great opportunity to meet fellow scientists.

AND COMING IN APRIL 2004- ANNUAL MEETING

Here's your chance to display/describe your research or to just relax, learn and socialize. The 2004 annual KAS meeting will be held April 16 - 17, 2004 as a joint meeting with the Missouri Academy of Science. The two academies will meet at Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri. Details will follow in the Spring 2004 *Bulletin*. However, block the date on your calendar and plan to attend now.

MEDIA NOTES

KAS Vice-President Mike Everhart and KAS member Rolfe Mandel both have earned their share of media kudos this year. Mike, who publishes the website Oceans of Kansas [oceansofkansas.com] which was recognized by *Scientific American* with a 2003 Sci/Tech Web Award. (see Scientificamerican.com May 27, 2003 Sidebar and by the NetWatch Section in the 1 August 2003 *Science* magazine (AAAS). Rolfe, a geo-archeologist, was featured in a front page article, complete with photograph, in the Sunday, July 27th issue of *The Wichita Eagle*. The article by Eagle reporter Roy Wenzl continued over two

inside pages and told of Rolfe's research of paleo-Indians of Kansas.

KAS TRANSACTIONS

Did you notice the last issue of *Transactions* you received? A few significant changes, the most noticeable being a change in size. This is the first such alteration in more than 100 years and allows the publication to be printed on a standard size paper. The printing format changed and now is two columns in lieu of one. The greatest change which is invisible to subscribers is that the entire publication is now edited and assembled "in-house" by editors Jim Aber and Dave Saunders. Their skills and knowledge have produced a "new" *Transactions* which is as good if not better than those of the past century and which costs half of what we have been paying to publish. Both editors deserve a resounding cheer and the collective thanks of the membership.

KAS TOPICS

Presentations at KAS meetings seem to be dominated by papers on geology, biology, and paleontology. They always are good papers and (I think) very interesting. However, one would think that there are no physicists, astronomers, engineers, anthropologists, medical doctors and only an occasional chemist in the state. What's wrong with these guys? KAS is an outstanding forum for student papers as well as those from the professionals. Contact your colleagues in other departments. Get them to join KAS, to participate and to bring their students.

KAS WEBSITE

www.wuacc.edu/kas Have you visited the Academy's website recently? Or ever? The first half of this year average 392 "hits" per month. Sam Leung at Washburn University does a first rate job as webmaster and has assembled a useful array of abstracts and other Academy information. As a popular advertisement says, "Try it! You'll like it!"

JAWS? IN KANSAS?

KAS V-P Mike Everhart has recently been finding shark teeth and dorsal fin spines in Permian age limestone in Wabaunsee County. Those sharks were swimming around about 260 million years ago. Kansas was more tropical then, only 10° or so north of the equator. Balmy. Few, if any, tornadoes but probably the occasional hurricane. We can rest more easily now. Our waters contain little more dangerous than snapping turtles and a few aggressive but small fish. Check out those sharks on www.Oceansofkansas.com. And just when you thought it was safe to go out again...

COMMUNICATION

by definition is two way. I send to you and you send feedback. I never know whether the readers receive the *Bulletin*, read it or what. I welcome your input which may be comments, suggestions or what-have-you (no advertisements please). My mailing address is on the corner of the stamped address page and my e-mail is lskelton@kqs.ku.edu. This editor's job is sort of like manning a SETI office. I'd like to hear from you.

WE NEED YOU-WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

KAS CANNOT RUN WITH JUST A FEW PEOPLE. WE NEED HELP; WE NEED VOLUNTEERS; WE NEED CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE; WE NEED ARTICLES FOR THE BULLETIN. CAN YOU HELP - YOU BET YOU CAN! CONTACT ANY OF THE OFFICERS FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE!