



## Fort Washita to host Fur Trade Rendezvous

Fort Washita in Durant will host a Fur Trade Rendezvous from Wednesday, March 30, through Sunday, April 3. This is a living history event reminiscent of a fur trade rendezvous that was the center of commerce on the early western frontier. Visitors can expect to see trappers representing the far northwest mountain areas to the desert southwest, as well as traders with French and Spanish influence. Visit Fort Washita and experience the sights, sounds, and smells of history.

The rendezvous will include instructive programs in customs, survival skills, and lifestyles of the period. "School Days" are scheduled for Thursday, March 31, and Friday, April 1. Students will travel through the camps where reenactors will explain life on the frontier in the early nineteenth century. There is no charge for school buses. There is a \$5 per car fee for others visiting the Fur Trade Rendezvous, with all proceeds benefitting preservation projects at Fort Washita. Please call 580-924-6502 for more information. Fort Washita was established in 1842 in the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, as the southwestern-most military post of the United States. A National Historic Landmark, Fort Washita is located at 3348 State Road 199 in Durant.



**Preston Ware showcases historical music at the 2015 Fur Trade Rendezvous.**

## Spring Bake Day at Fort Gibson

Fort Gibson Historic Site and the Friends of Fort Gibson will host Spring Bake Day on Saturday, March 26, beginning at 10 a.m. Bake Day is a fundraiser and educational event that depicts one aspect of army life during and after the Civil War. The aroma of fresh baked bread will fill the air on Garrison Hill as Fort Gibson staff and volunteers bring a bake house to life. This living history presentation details the bread making process, with Rory Montgomery explaining how to bake bread in an old wood-fired stone oven. Guests can enjoy bread baking demonstrations and sample the finished product. Visitors also may bring their own bread to bake in the oven at Fort Gibson, then spend the day viewing a reconstruction of the early log fort as well as original buildings from the 1840s through 1870s. Exhibits detailing the history of the fort are located in the Commissary Visitor Center on Garrison Hill. For more information please contact Omar Reed at 918-478-4088 or [oreed@okhistory.org](mailto:oreed@okhistory.org). Fort Gibson is a National Historic Landmark and is located at 907 North Garrison in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma.

## Fourth annual *Trappings of the Cherokee Strip* exhibit at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center (CSRHC) in Enid will host its fourth annual *Trappings of the Cherokee Strip* exhibit of fine Western art and custom cowboy gear. This year, the *Trappings* show will feature fifteen of Oklahoma's best Western artists and craftsmen. The show will include some new artists as well as *Trappings* favorites who have been in one or all of the shows.

*Trappings of the Cherokee Strip* opens to the public on Saturday, February 27, and remains open through Saturday, March 26. This invitational show brings together an impressive collection of fine works of Western art and handmade cowboy gear. The show is expertly exhibited to showcase the beauty of each item. All works are for purchase, deliverable following the close of the show.

On display this year will be paintings, drawings, sculpture, works of silver, cowboy boots, rawhide works, decorative gourds, pottery, and furniture. "The *Trappings* show is one of the Heritage Center's most popular events of the year," said Andi Holland, director of the CSRHC. "We are pleased to promote our proud Western heritage in this way and provide these remarkable Oklahoma artists with an opportunity to showcase their amazing works of art."

Featured artists are DeWayne Colwell, Doug Cook, Brenda Dewald, Mikel Donahue, Ray Dorwart, Patty Ferguson, Harland Hackett, Barbara Jacques, Stephen Jones, Heather Kaiser, Joe Lamerton, Kathryn Leitner, Bob Rae, John Rule, and Marshall Rule. Each participating artist can exhibit up to three works of art or gear. These works are of fine quality, integrity, and craftsmanship that will provide years of enjoyment and become treasured collectables.

On Wednesday, March 9, at noon, the Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program will feature one of the *Trappings* show artists, Joe Lamerton. Lamerton is a talented furniture maker from Enid. He will be sharing information about his techniques, what inspires his work, and how he got started making furniture. The presentation will be held in the CSRHC's Village Church and is free to the public.

The *Trappings of the Cherokee Strip* exhibit is included with museum admission. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, military, and seniors, and children five and under are free. Regular hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the fine art and gear show or other CSRHC programs, please call 580-237-1907 or visit [www.csrhc.org](http://www.csrhc.org). The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 South Fourth Street in Enid.







## Director's column

**By Dr. Bob L. Blackburn**  
**Executive Director**

If you are a Jimmy Buffett fan, you know the lyrics "changes in latitudes, changes in attitudes." That describes what has been happening at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

The first part of that lyric, "changes in latitudes," could describe the external forces that have shaped the landscape of challenges and opportunities.

High on the list of opportunities have been new partnerships with tribes, foundations, associations, and families; the digital revolution and efforts to unlock access to collections; and a growing interest in cultural tourism, popular culture, and genealogy. We have taken advantage of each opportunity.

High on the list of challenges would be deferred maintenance at museums and sites due to lack of funds, no inflation-adjusted pay raises for our work force in nine years, and a series of budget cuts since 2009. All of this, however, is dwarfed by the recommendations made by Governor Fallin in her current executive budget.

Although described as a 6 percent cut in the OHS appropriation, her figures assume the current revenue shortfall is permanent, which it is not. When that amount is included, the cut would be 10.5 percent, more than \$1 million.

Even more devastating would be what she called "Apportionment Reform," a clever name that means there would be another \$1.6 million taken from the OHS. This permanent reduction in sales tax revenue, combined with the recommended budget cut, would mean a 25 percent budget cut in one year. That has never happened in more than 123 years of community support. Not even close.

So how has this proposed change in latitude affected our attitude?

First, we are neither giving in nor giving up. The board of directors, the staff, the volunteers, the membership, and the constituencies we serve value efforts to collect, preserve, and share Oklahoma history. All of us are committed to adjusting as needed, but even more, we are committed to our key practices of higher standards, greater efficiencies, and growing partnerships. So how do we adjust without compromising our future effectiveness?

On the positive side, we have to continue our long term strategies to maximize revenue and seek partners willing to help with collections, exhibits, and programs. We need to keep looking for technologies that allow us to do more with less while opening new doors of opportunity. We must continue adjusting organizational structure, job assignments, and priorities.

On the negative side, we have to prioritize program areas and accept that we will be losing colleagues and shrinking programs. Over the past seven years most of our cuts have been at the Oklahoma History Center, but this coming year the only place to find substantial savings will be around the state. That means closing museums and historic sites.

The average savings from eliminating all state support from a field location is about \$100,000. If the cut is \$1 million as projected, we could lose ten facilities. If the cut is \$2.6 million as recommended by the governor, we could close up to twenty or more facilities. I do not look forward to visiting those communities where we can no longer honor our pledge to work with them to save our shared history.

The governor's budget book is only a recommendation. The legislature drafts and approves a budget, which takes time and careful deliberation. They will make a decision sometime in April or May, so we have time to examine the consequences of a major cut.

Yes, we might be sailing into new latitudes, but we should not compromise our attitudes. We cannot sink back into acceptable mediocrity.

*Dr. Bob*

## Development News

By Larry O'Dell

The Oklahoma Historical Society continues to sell leaves as part of the Oklahoma Family Tree project. A new feature included with the Oklahoma Family Tree display is a touch-screen kiosk at which individuals can view family histories associated with the tree leaves. Individuals or families may sponsor leaves for \$1,000 each, with the option of paying throughout a two-year pledge period. The Oklahoma Family Tree is located just outside the Research Center Reading Room in the West Family Wing at the Oklahoma History Center. To order a leaf on the family tree, please call 405-522-0317, email [lodell@okhistory.org](mailto:lodell@okhistory.org), or visit [www.okhistory.org/support/familytree.php](http://www.okhistory.org/support/familytree.php).



## New Members, January

\*Indicates renewed memberships at a higher level

### Director's Circle

Winters Family Foundation, Oklahoma City

### Fellow

Ed Barth, Oklahoma City  
\*Douglas and Theresa Gardiner, Altus

### Associate

\*Mrs. F. Warren Pixley, Claremore

### Friend

David and Janet Battles, Edmond  
\*Dorothy Gibbons, Tulsa  
\*Katherine Leach, Colorado Springs, CO  
\*Donna McSpadden, Chelsea  
\*Bill Phelps, Norman  
Jennifer Rogers-Etcheverry, Bakersfield, CA  
\*Gary Stidham, Purcell

### Family

Betty Belt, El Reno  
Tori Benedix and Bailey Romeo, Harrah  
\*Kim Bishop, Edmond  
\*Klee and Sally Black, Oklahoma City  
Betty Jean Brannan and Jo Ann Brannan, Oklahoma City  
Ronald and Helen Cannefax, Midwest City  
Jeff and Ruth Claybrooks, Oklahoma City  
Jack Daghlain and Diana Bedwell, Oklahoma City  
Kristin Davis and Jonathan Harpman, Edmond  
\*Michael Dollar, Oklahoma City  
Daniel Fields, Oklahoma City  
Don and Helen Finley, Yukon  
\*Eva Gerard-Baker, Denison, TX  
\*Wight and Joyce Jones, Edmond  
Marilyn Kesler, Lawton  
Patricia Likowski and Robert Hatcher, Oklahoma City  
Hannah and Candace Magruder, Norman  
Donald and Shirley Marquardt, Round Rock, TX  
Teresa McClung and Elizabeth McClung, Claremore  
Oresa McKnight, Marland  
Ginny Murphy, Oklahoma City  
Timothy and Margaret O'Connor, Oklahoma City  
Barbara Piland and Valerie Oakley, Oklahoma City  
Chris Salyer, Oklahoma City  
\*Blaine and Peggy Shaffer, Omaha, NE  
Jerry Stephens, Edmond  
Howard and Carolyn Thomas, Fort Towson  
Chris Wilfong, Washington

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**Oklahoma Historical Society**  
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The public and OHS members are encouraged to submit heritage-related items for publication. Students and teachers are invited to share studies and programs and to duplicate contents as desired. Editors are welcome to reprint materials with credit.

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# AROUND OKLAHOMA

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## Events

Join the Cleveland County chapter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society for its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. The meeting is free, open to the public, and will be held at the Sam Noble Museum in **Norman**. As part of its Spring Speaker Series, the meeting will include a guest speaker. Alesha Marcum-Heiman, University of Oklahoma graduate student, will give a presentation entitled "Life on the Edge: Recent Research in the Black Mesa Ecotone of Oklahoma." The Sam Noble Museum at the University of Oklahoma is located at 2401 Chautauqua Avenue in Norman. For more information please call Elsbeth Dowd at 405-325-1035.

Celebrate the birthday of Bob Wills at Cain's Ballroom in **Tulsa** on Saturday, March 5. Bob Wills, known as "the King of Western Swing," was born on March 6, 1905. By 1935 Wills and his band were playing shows at Cain's Ballroom, making it the perfect setting to honor this legendary musician. Join the celebration and enjoy live music and dancing. Cain's Ballroom is located at 423 North Main Street in Tulsa. Please call 918-584-2306 for more information.

As the National Park Service celebrates its centennial, one of its goals is to reintroduce the National Parks to all citizens. To do this, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in **Cheyenne** will host many activities throughout 2016. Two programs will take place during the month of March and the public is encouraged to attend. On Sunday, March 6, at 2 p.m., enjoy an installment of the "Find Your Park" lecture series. A park ranger will share personal experiences of another National Park Service unit in which he or she worked. On Saturday, March 19, Movie Night will be held at 6:30 p.m., which includes a family film followed by a park ranger leading a discussion about the film's relevance to the Washita Battlefield. Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is located at 18555 Highway 47A near Cheyenne. For more information please contact Kevin Bowles Mohr at 580-497-2742, ext. 3003 or Kevin\_Bowles\_Mohr@nps.gov.

The Oklahoma Museums Association (OMA) District Four meeting will be held on Monday, March 7, 2-4 p.m., at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in **Norman**. This event includes tours, group discussions, and networking. The OMA District Four

meeting is free to attend, but OMA asks that you complete a registration form on its website at [www.okmuseums.org](http://www.okmuseums.org). The deadline to register is February 29. Questions or comments about this event may be directed to Stephanie Allen, OMA District Four representative, at 405-325-5481 or [stephanie.allen@ou.edu](mailto:stephanie.allen@ou.edu). The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma is located at 555 Elm Avenue in Norman.

Learn about the life of Will Rogers during a week full of fun Spring Break activities on Monday, March 14, through Friday, March 18, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Spring Break activities will take place at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in **Claremore** and the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in **Oologah**. Throughout the week, a variety of activities and programs will be held, including behind-the-scenes tours for families, an exhibit making workshop, a poster design workshop, a creative writing workshop, a talent show, and a living history day for visitors to experience life as Will Rogers did in the 1800s. For a schedule of Spring Break activities or to sign up for select programs, please visit [www.willrogers.com](http://www.willrogers.com). Admission to the museum in Claremore is free for children seventeen and under and for museum members. Admission to the ranch in Oologah is by donation. Please call 918-343-8129 with questions. The Will Rogers Memorial Museum is located at 1720 West Will Rogers Boulevard in Claremore. The Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch is located at 9501 East 380 Road in Oologah.

Visit the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in **Woodward** and enjoy its annual Paul Laune Memorial Art Competition for high school students. The exhibit is on display from Saturday, February 20, through Wednesday, March 16. This juried show includes paintings, watercolor, sculpture, and photography, among other categories that will all be judged and awarded. A reception with refreshments will be held on Wednesday, March 16, at 11 a.m. At noon, Bruce Benbrook of the Stock Exchange Bank and representatives from the Woodward Artisans League will present awards to the winners from each category. The artists, their families, and the general public are invited to attend. The Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum is located at 2009 Williams Avenue in Woodward. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free. Please contact Director Robert Roberson at 580-256-6136 or [pipm@swbell.net](mailto:pipm@swbell.net) for more information.

## Announcements

The second edition of *Nichols Hills: A Residential Community*, by Konrad Keesee and Ann Taylor, is now available for sale. This updated book features additional social photographs, including those of early debutantes and the 1960 Best Dressed Ladies. It also features the history of the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club, many of the earliest houses that have since been demolished, and interior photographs of the G. A. Nichols estate, the Fred Jones mansion, and the John A. Brown residence. The book is available for sale at **Nichols Hills** Town Hall, located at 6407 Avondale Drive in Nichols Hills. All proceeds will benefit Nichols Hills parks. For more information please call 405-843-6637.

The Love County Historical Society's 2016 calendars are available for sale from its offices in **Marietta**. Featured in the calendars are historic photographs from across Love County, including photos of the Greenville boys basketball team in 1941, First Baptist Church in 1910, McGehee corn picker in 1947, Nipp family in 1956, Thackerville fifth grade in 1954, Orr mechanics in 1938, Leon girls basketball team in 1956, Burneyville juniors in 1941, bread delivery in 1950, Enville School in 1924, Meadowbrook seniors in 1946, and Belleville baseball team in 1947. The calendars cost \$5 each and may be purchased by visiting the Pioneer Museum in Marietta. Several Love County businesses will sell the calendars, with a list available by calling the Love County Historical Society at 580-276-9020. Orders also may be placed by mailing a check to the society at PO Box 134, Marietta, OK 73448, or by calling Laquitta Ladner at 580-276-3477. Please note that \$1.75 postage and handling will be added to all orders that are mailed.

Do you want your organization's meeting, event, exhibit, or announcement included in the "Around Oklahoma" section of *Mistletoe Leaves*? The "Around Oklahoma" section features Oklahoma history and heritage-related activities or programs sponsored by entities other than the Oklahoma Historical Society. To submit news items, please contact Evelyn Brown, assistant editor, by email at [eebrown@okhistory.org](mailto:eebrown@okhistory.org) or by mail at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105. If you wish a news item to appear in the April issue, you must submit it by Friday, March 4, 2016.



# Candidates for election to the OHS Board of Directors announced

OHS members will receive election ballots, candidate biographies, and related materials by mail. We hope that members will take time to consider the candidates and participate in the 2016 election. To facilitate that process, the candidate biographies are printed below. Members will be asked to vote for one candidate from District One, one candidate from District Three, and two of the At-Large candidates.

## District One

### P. Mitchell Adwon (Tulsa)

Mitch Adwon is a native Tulsan and a graduate of the University of Tulsa. He is president of Adwon Properties, Inc. and managing member of Polly Properties, LLC and its affiliated entities, which are engaged in regional commercial real estate investments. He is active in the Tulsa community and currently serves on the boards of directors of Cherokee Nation Businesses, Salvation Army, and Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts. Adwon serves on the Rogers State University Constitution Day Board of Governors and is president of the Tulsa Historical Society. He is also active at the University of Tulsa in its College of Arts and Sciences and McFarlin Library. Adwon previously served on the boards of the Tulsa City-County Library Commission, Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority, Holland Hall School, Family and Children's Services, the Oklahoma Film Commission, Leadership Oklahoma, and Leadership Tulsa. Adwon and his family, through their mother's side, still farm their original allotment of land granted at the time of statehood. His father's family immigrated to Oklahoma prior to statehood. Adwon has been a member of the OHS since 1987.

### Carole Bender (Tulsa)

Carole and Jack Bender are the only husband-wife team involved in producing an internationally syndicated cartoon strip, *Alley Oop*. While United Media lists Jack as the artist and Carole as the writer, they actually are a seamless team in every level of production of the strip. The loveable caveman and his friends are featured in six hundred newspapers as well as online, and the strip is read by an estimated 26 million people daily. Bender was born in Stillwater, raised in Ponca City, and is an Oklahoma State University graduate who has lived in Tulsa since 1978. She is the author of a book titled *Bob Gibson: I Come For to Sing*, a biography of the renowned folk singer. Bender also is an accomplished painter in oils. Bender has been a member of the OHS since 2010, and she is a strong supporter of the OHS's Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture to be built in Tulsa's Brady District.

### Guy William Logsdon (Tulsa)

Dr. Guy Logsdon is an Ada native with degrees from East Central State University and the University of Oklahoma. He served as reference librarian at Oklahoma State University (1964–67), director of libraries at the University of Tulsa (1967–81), and professor of Education and Folklife, (1981–89). A nationally recognized authority on the life and music of Woody Guthrie and western and cowboy music, poetry, and musicians, Logsdon also is known for his expertise on the Dust Bowl and its migrants and western swing music. He has authored or coauthored six books, including the award-winning *The Whorehouse Bells Were Ringing and Other Songs Cowboys Sing*. His latest book is *Woody's Road* (2012), coauthored with Woody Guthrie's sister Mary Jo Guthrie Edgmon. Logsdon has published more than 150 articles, essays, encyclopedia entries, and book introductions. He also has produced recording compilations, annotations, or liner notes for twenty-seven record albums or CDs involving musicians such as Woody Guthrie, Lead Belly, Pete Seeger, Jack Guthrie, Marty Robbins, Tex Ritter, and Johnnie Lee Wills. Logsdon worked extensively with the Smithsonian Institution to

document the life and music of Woody Guthrie, and he has received major awards from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Western History Association, Academy of Western Arts, Westerners International, and the Oklahoma Heritage Association. A lecturer and performer, he has presented hundreds of programs to audiences nationwide. Logsdon joined the OHS in 1964 and presently serves on the OHS board's Research and Publications Committees.

## District Three

### Teresa Black Bradway (Clayton)

An OHS member since 1987, Teresa Bradway often volunteers at history events and reenactments. During Education Days at OHS sites, she brings nineteenth-century songs to school children, wearing a calico dress and playing a banjo or guitar. She is a cast member of the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show and sings songs of the Old West at the annual event. Bradway retired as an assistant United States attorney in Oklahoma City after almost thirty-eight years of service. She moved to Clayton in 2013. Her news stories and photographs appear in *Clayton Today* and the *Antlers American*. At OHS events, she has portrayed an abolitionist, a Civil War refugee, and a tavern singer. She has given talks on Civil War music at the Battle of Honey Springs reenactment. A reenactor since 1993, Bradway has appeared at Fort Gibson, the Murrell Home, Fort Reno, Fort Washita, Honey Springs, Fort Towson, and national parks. She has sung at national historic sites such as the Alamo and the Battle of New Orleans site. Bradway was born in Oklahoma City. Her father's family came to Oklahoma in the Land Run of 1889. She has a law degree from the University of Oklahoma and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Order of the Coif. As an OU student, Bradway worked for the Associated Press, the *Tulsa World*, WKY radio and TV news, the *Muskogee Phoenix*, and was editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*.

### Ken Rainbolt (Durant)

A native of Bartlesville, Ken Rainbolt earned a BA degree from Oklahoma State University in 1969 and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1975. He also served as a combat engineer as a member of the US Army in Vietnam. Rainbolt is a respected attorney in Durant, where he is a partner in the firm of Mickle & Rainbolt, and municipal judge for the City of Durant. An active community leader, Rainbolt is vice chairman of the board of the Three Valley Museum in Durant. Rainbolt previously served on the OHS board of directors for sixteen years. His service included chairing OHS Annual Meetings in Durant and in Ardmore. He also served on a variety of committees of the board and as a member of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. Particularly interested in the American Civil War, he is an active Civil War Roundtable participant. He also enjoys giving public speeches on the Civil War in Oklahoma, prisoners of war in southeastern Oklahoma, the Butterfield Overland Trail, Fort Washita and Fort McCulloch, Civil War artifacts, and the Red River Bridge War.

### Donna Sharpe (Checotah)

Donna Sharpe graduated from Checotah High School as valedictorian and earned accounting degrees at Oklahoma State University and Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. She is a charter member of the Checotah Landmark Preservation Society, presently serving as secretary of the organization. Sharpe is active in a wide range of civic organizations, including her present service as treasurer of the Checotah Foundation for Academic Excellence, Inc. and president of her local PEO Chapter. She also serves as purchasing agent and auditor for her church. With her husband, Logan, she is a staunch supporter of the preservation and development of the Honey Springs Battlefield site, including the current construction of a new visitor center to preserve the history of Oklahoma's most significant Civil War battle. She is an active volunteer with the Friends of

Honey Springs Battlefield, participating in candlelight tours, memorial runs, and planning battle reenactments, including the November 2015 reenactment. Her latest project is restoring the early-1900s Sharpe family home into a bed and breakfast and event venue in Checotah. Sharpe has been a member of the OHS since 1992 and a director since 2013. She presently serves on the Historic Preservation and Museums and Sites Committees for the OHS.

## State At-Large

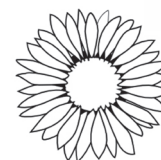
### Harold Aldridge (Tahlequah)

Aldridge grew up in the historic black town of Taft, Oklahoma. He is an emeritus professor of psychology at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, where he taught from 1971 to 1997. Dr. Aldridge earned his bachelor's degree from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, his master's from Northeastern, and his PhD from the University of Oklahoma in 1979. He was one of the first African American professors to teach at Northeastern after desegregation. He was also one of the first to desegregate Tulsa Memorial High School in Tulsa. A licensed behavioral practitioner, he also is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, which works with the NAACP on programs to keep young African American men out of trouble. His current research is about the history of education in Oklahoma, focusing on the segregation and desegregation of Oklahoma's schools. Aldridge is a horse trainer, a black belt in taekwondo, and has been a basketball referee for what formerly were the Big 8 Conference and the American Basketball Association. He also played on three high school state championship basketball teams after desegregation. An accomplished blues musician, Aldridge was inducted into the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame. He recently performed and lectured on the development of Blues music as part of the Through Music program themed, "Oklahoma Blues" at the Oklahoma History Center.

### R. Eugene Earsom (Oklahoma City)

A fifth generation Oklahoma teacher, Earsom earned a BA in political science from Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts (1970) and a master's of social sciences from the University of Oklahoma (1981). He recently retired after eleven years as program director for the Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education at OU. Previously he taught high school social studies for twenty years in Yukon and Moore, and served as Social Studies director at the Oklahoma State Department of Education for seven years. He was named Social Studies Teacher of the Year (1989) and Oklahoma Teacher of the Year (1990). Governor Bellmon appointed him to the HB1017 Oklahoma Curriculum Committee in 1991. In 1997 he received the Teaching Excellence in Civic Education Award from the Close Up Foundation in Washington, DC. Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies presented Earsom the Outstanding Service Award (2004) and the "Friend of Social Studies" Award (2014). He was inducted into the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Alumni Hall of Fame (2010). He currently serves on the boards of New Hope Christian Church, the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education, the Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame. In 2014–15 he chaired the Resolutions Committee of the National Council for the Social Studies and is a member of the Council of State Social Studies Specialists. Earsom serves as secretary for the OHS Black Heritage Committee. He was a contributor to *Oklahoma: Our Home*, an elementary textbook. He has been a member of the OHS since 1977.

*State At-Large candidates cont'd. on p. 5*





### Patti Loughlin (Stillwater)

Dr. Patti Loughlin is professor of History and department chair at the University of Central Oklahoma and specializes in twentieth-century US history, American Indian history, and the history of the American West. She received her PhD in history from Oklahoma State University in 2000. Her book, *Hidden Treasures of the American West: Muriel H. Wright, Angie Debo, and Alice Marriott* (University of New Mexico Press, 2005), received the Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History award from the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Director's Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book, both in 2006. In addition, she coauthored with Bob Burke, *Building Traditions, Educating Generations: A History of the University of Central Oklahoma* (Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2007) and coedited with Linda W. Reese, *Main Street Oklahoma: Stories of Twentieth-Century America* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2013). Loughlin encourages her graduate and undergraduate students to conduct research in the Research Division at the OHS. She has been a member of the OHS Board of Directors since 2010 and presently serves on the Research and Publications Committees.

### Lewis Stiles (Broken Bow)

A native of McCurtain County, Stiles earned a DVM degree at Oklahoma State University and practiced at Holdenville for sixteen years. He returned to McCurtain County in 1969 where he has devoted forty-four years of effort to preserve the history of the area. A charter member of the McCurtain County Historical Society, he has served as president of that organization. Stiles is a past president and vice president of the OHS and has more than twenty years of service on the OHS board. He presently serves on the Oklahoma Museum of History and Indian Heritage Committees. Stiles is a member of the boards of the Museum of the Red River and the Forest Heritage Center. He also has owned and operated the Chief Gardner Mansion and Museum for many years. This structure was his childhood home. One of Stiles's other projects was marking the Choctaw Trail of Tears from the Arkansas border to Choctaw County. He also is coauthor of the book *The Bounty of the Land: Fur Traders in Oklahoma*. He has received the Distinguished Service Award for Preservation of State and Local History from the Oklahoma Heritage Association and the McCurtain County Distinguished Service Award. Stiles joined the OHS in 1980 and is a Life Member. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame in 2011.

### Jimmie White (Warner)

White served as chair of the Social Science Division of Connors State College from 1990 to 2013. A native of Langston, he earned a master's degree in history at Oklahoma State University in 1975. He has been a professional educator in Oklahoma for more than thirty-nine years and joined the faculty at Connors State College in 1976. White has been active in civic and professional affairs, a sampling of which includes the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Inc., Higher Education Alumni Council of Oklahoma, and Phi Alpha Theta National Honor Society. He represented Connors State College on the Oklahoma State Regents' Faculty Advisory Council and on the Steering Committee of the Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education. A lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), he is a founding member, board member, and treasurer of the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame. He has received numerous honors and awards, including Distinguished Service by Langston University in 1980, one of the Outstanding Young Men of America by the US Jaycees in 1980 and 1981, Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition by Congressman Mike Synar, named to the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot Commission by Governor Frank Keating in 1997, and the Bass and McCasland Award for Excellence in Teaching Oklahoma History by the Oklahoma Heritage Association in 2004. White also has been active in researching, writing, and publishing articles as well as public speaking.

## 2016 Statewide Preservation Conference

Save the dates June 1–3, 2016, for Oklahoma's Twenty-Eighth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference to be held in Enid, Oklahoma. The full conference schedule will appear in a future issue of *Mistletoe Leaves*.

## Museum Store News

By Jera Winters

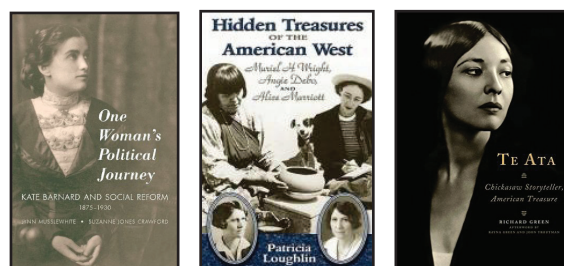
Celebrate the women of Oklahoma for Women's History Month with the Oklahoma History Center Museum Store.

*One Woman's Political Journey: Kate Barnard and Social Reform, 1875–1930*, by Lynn Musslewhite and Suzanne Jones Crawford, is the story of a complex Oklahoman who believed that women were valuable contributors to society and politics. Kate Barnard went on to be the first female elected as a state official in the nation. Barnard was a champion for women, children, and the downtrodden, and considered one of the most influential people in the history of Oklahoma. This book is regularly \$34.95, available to OHS members for \$29.71.

*Hidden Treasures of the American West: Muriel H. Wright, Angie Debo, and Alice Marriott*, by Patricia Loughlin, traces the paths of three extraordinary female intellectuals of the 1930s and 1940s. The author explains how these women revolutionized the field of history in Oklahoma as well as the American West. This book is regularly \$25.85, available to OHS members for \$21.97.

*Te Ata: Chickasaw Storyteller, American Treasure*, by Richard Green, details the life and career of Te Ata, a collector and performer of Chickasaw and other American Indian tales. Throughout her long and varied career, she performed for audiences all over the world, and here Green examines her experiences through the artist's own personal papers and letters. This book is regularly \$24.00, available to OHS members for \$20.40.

Come to the OHC Museum Store for these and other wonderful books about famous and influential Oklahomans. As always, members receive a 15 percent discount on all purchases in the OHC Museum Store. Please call us at 405-522-5214 with questions or to place an order.



## Call for nominations for the twenty-third annual Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame

The Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society (OHEHS), established in 1991 as a nonprofit to support awareness of higher education's vital role in Oklahoma history, has inducted more than two hundred individuals into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame since its establishment in 1994.

The Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame was established to recognize and honor individuals, living and deceased, for outstanding, meritorious service to higher education in Oklahoma. This year, 2016, represents the twenty-third year that OHEHS will honor higher education educators and administrators, as well as those who support higher education with distinguished contributions.

To be eligible for induction, an individual must have been employed by one or more institutions of public or private higher education in Oklahoma on a full-time basis for a minimum of ten years. Individuals not so employed, but who have performed outstanding service to higher education in the state, or organizations or institutions that have performed such service, also are eligible for consideration, such service to be above and beyond financial contributions. Individuals employed by an institution of higher education in Oklahoma in an area of infrastructure and support services on a full-time basis for a minimum of ten years also may be considered for induction.

Nominations must be submitted by March 18, 2016. A nomination form can be downloaded from the OHEHS website or requested by emailing Amanda Jacobs, OHEHS executive secretary, at [ajacobs@okhistory.org](mailto:ajacobs@okhistory.org). The twenty-third annual formal induction ceremony and banquet will be held on October 24, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Biographical sketches and photos of past hall of fame inductees are available on the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society website, [www.ohehs.org](http://www.ohehs.org), as well as the Higher Education kiosk in the Education exhibit at the Oklahoma History Center. For more information about the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame or the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society, visit [www.ohehs.org](http://www.ohehs.org) or contact Amanda Jacobs at 405-522-0778 or [ajacobs@okhistory.org](mailto:ajacobs@okhistory.org).



# 2016 Oklahoma History Conference

## Woodward, Oklahoma

### Landmarks and Turning Points in Oklahoma History

**Presented by the  
Oklahoma Historical Society**

#### General Information

The 2016 Oklahoma History Conference will be held in Woodward, Oklahoma, at the Woodward Conference Center on April 27, 28, and 29, 2016. The conference will feature program sessions with presentations related to the theme "Landmarks and Turning Points in Oklahoma History," two luncheons, three bus tours, a reception, dinner, and concert. A list of sponsors for the conference will be published in the April *Mistletoe Leaves* newsletter, Vol. 47, No. 4.

Arrangements have been made by the OHS to have hotel rooms blocked and special rates made available. Detailed information regarding conference hotels was provided on page six of the February *Mistletoe Leaves* newsletter, Vol. 47, No. 2. Hotels offering discounts for conference attendees include Candlewood Suites, Holiday Inn Express, La Quinta Inn, Northwest Inn, Sands Inn and Suites, and Wayfarer Inn.

An invitation to the conference, registration forms, and detailed hotel information have been mailed to all members of the OHS. The registration fee is \$15 for OHS members and \$20 for nonmembers. There also will be charges for the optional events, including the reception, luncheons, bus tours, dinner, and concert. Please complete the form and return it with payment in the envelope provided. Registration forms also may be obtained by contacting Paul Lambert at 405-522-5217 or [plambert@okhistory.org](mailto:plambert@okhistory.org) or Shelly Crynes at 405-522-0317 or [scrynes@okhistory.org](mailto:scrynes@okhistory.org).

**Wednesday, April 27, 2016**

**Board of Directors Meeting  
Meeting Room One,  
Woodward Conference Center**  
3401 Centennial Drive  
11 a.m.

**Registration  
Concourse, Conference Center**  
1 – 4 p.m.

**Bus Tour  
Retracing Custer's route to the  
Battle of the Washita and tour of site**  
1:30 – 5:45 p.m.

**Reception  
honoring preservationists  
of historic Fort Supply  
Concourse, Conference Center**  
6:30 – 8 p.m.

**Thursday, April 28, 2016**

**Registration  
Concourse, Conference Center**  
8 – 11:45 a.m.

**Presentation Sessions  
Meeting Rooms and Exhibit Halls,  
Conference Center**  
9 – 9:45 a.m.

**Session 1  
James Madison in Oklahoma**  
Presenter: Quentin P. Taylor, professor of History and Politics, Rogers State University, Claremore  
Moderator: Kathy Dickson, director, Museums and Historic Sites Division, OHS, Oklahoma City

**Session 2  
Homesteading in Oklahoma: Diverse  
Examples of Fortitude Applied  
on the Frontier**  
Presenters: Auburn P. Mitchell, attorney, Austin, Texas  
Lyman McDonald, cofounder, West, Inc., Laramie, Wyoming  
Moderator: Eric Schmaltz, professor, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva

**Session 3  
November 17–18, 1910: Oklahoma City's  
First Public Art Exhibit**  
Presenter: Margaret Flansburg, emeritus professor of Humanities and Philosophy, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond  
Moderator: Heather Lunsford, director, Art in Public Places, Oklahoma City

**Session 4  
Along the Arkansas with Oklahoma's  
First Scientist**  
Presenter: Susan Dragoo, author and photographer, Norman  
Moderator: Bill Corbett, president, OHS Board of Directors, Tahlequah

**Session 5  
Topography Determines Turning Points  
in Oklahoma History: The Battle  
of the Washita**  
Presenter: Kevin Bowles Mohr, chief of interpretation, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Cheyenne  
Moderator: Charles Tate, member, OHS Board of Directors, Ardmore



**Session 6  
1965: Governor Henry Bellmon Signs  
the Oklahoma Arts and Humanities  
Council into Law**

Presenters: Christiane Faris, emeritus professor of Humanities and former chair of the Modern Languages Department, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City

Ann Thompson, executive director, Oklahoma Humanities Council, Oklahoma City

Moderator: Chris Carroll, marketing and development officer, Oklahoma Humanities Council, Oklahoma City

**Session 7  
Pioneer Woman Statue: Confident Icon  
of Past, Present, and Future**  
Presenters: Robbin Davis, director, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City  
Keith Fagan, historical interpreter, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City  
Moderator: Patti Loughlin, chair, Department of History, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond

**Session 8  
Landmark Legislation and the Turning  
Point in Oklahoma's Historic Preservation  
Movement**  
Presenters: Melvena Heisch, deputy state historic preservation officer, OHS, Oklahoma City  
Glen Roberson, coordinator, Certified Local Governments Program, OHS, Oklahoma City  
Moderator: David Pettyjohn, executive director, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., Oklahoma City

11 – 11:45 a.m.

**Session 9 (Plenary Session)  
The Love's Story**  
Presenters: Bob Blackburn, executive director, OHS, Oklahoma City  
Tom Love, cofounder, Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores, Oklahoma City  
Moderator: Deena K. Fisher, dean of Woodward campus, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Woodward

**Annual Conference Luncheon  
Exhibit Halls, Conference Center**  
Noon – 1:40 p.m.  
Keynote speaker: Jay Hannah, Cherokee historian and executive vice president for financial services, BancFirst, Oklahoma City

**Annual OHS Membership Meeting  
Exhibit Halls, Conference Center**  
1:50 p.m.

**OHS Board of Directors Meeting  
Exhibit Hall, Conference Center**  
2:05 p.m.

**Bus Tour  
Fort Supply and Modern Wind Farm**  
2:45 – 5:30 p.m.



**Bus Tour  
Historic Waynoka**

2:45 – 5:30 p.m.

**Buffet Dinner, Program,  
and Concert  
honoring Ron Hohweiler  
Exhibit Halls, Conference Center**  
6 – 9 p.m.

**Friday, April 29, 2016**

**Registration  
Concourse, Conference Center**  
8 – 11:45 a.m.

**Presentation Sessions  
Meeting Rooms and Exhibit Halls,  
Conference Center**  
9 – 9:45 a.m.

**Session 10**

**The Camp Holmes Treaty of 1835**

Presenter: Lauren Brand, Bethany, PhD candidate, Rice University, Houston, Texas

Moderator: Linda Reese, Norman, associate professor emeritus, Department of History and Native American Studies, East Central University, Ada

**Session 11**

**Turning Points in Fort Smith-Indian  
Territory Relations**

Presenter: Daniel R. Maher, associate professor of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas

Moderator: Benjamin Kracht, chair, Department of Cherokee and Indigenous Studies, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah

**Session 12**

**The Small Town Boys of Western  
Oklahoma Who Took Us to the Moon:  
Engineers in the Apollo Space Program**

Presenter: Bill Moore, author and documentarian, Moore

Moderator: Dan Provo, director, Oklahoma History Center, OHS, Oklahoma City

10 – 10:45 a.m.

**Session 13**

**Agency Hill Marked Muskogee as the  
Capital of Indian Territory**

Presenter: Jonita Mullins, independent historian and author, Muskogee

Moderator: Chad Williams, director, Research Division, OHS, Oklahoma City

**Session 14**

**Woodward's Favorite Son:  
Temple Houston**

Presenters: Deena K. Fisher, Executive Committee member, OHS Board of Directors, Woodward

Charles Goin, independent historian and volunteer at Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum, Woodward

Ian Swart, archivist and curator of collections, Tulsa Historical Society, Tulsa

Moderator: Leonard Logan, Executive Committee member, OHS Board of Directors, Vinita

**Session 15**

**Sandtown: The North Canadian River and  
Oklahoma City's Oldest Neighborhood**

Presenter: Sam Stalcup, independent historian, Oklahoma City

Moderator: Shirley Nero, member, OHS Board of Directors, Clearview

11 – 11:45 a.m.

**Session 16**

**The Establishment of the First US  
Dragoon Regiment in Oklahoma**

Presenter: Bill Jordan, independent historian and reenactor, Red Oak, Iowa

Moderator: Matt Reed, curator of American Indian collections and military history, Oklahoma History Center, OHS, Oklahoma City

**Session 17**

**Hitler's Corpse, Scrap Metal, and  
War Bonds: The Patriotic Endeavors of  
World War II Tulsans**

Presenter: Arly R. Ward, PhD candidate, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Moderator: Karen Keith, member, OHS Board of Directors, Tulsa

**Session 18**

**The Mouse that Roared: The Rise and  
Fall of Penn Square Bank**

Presenter: Michael Hightower, independent historian and principal researcher for the Oklahoma Bank and Commerce History Project, OHS, Oklahoma City

Moderator: James R. Waldo, Executive Committee member, OHS Board of Directors, Oklahoma City

**Annual Awards Luncheon  
Exhibit Halls, Conference Center**

Noon – 1:45 p.m.

This luncheon includes the presentation of awards and induction of four individuals into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

**Unveiling of Temple Houston  
statue**

**Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum**

2009 Williams Avenue, Woodward  
2:15 p.m.

Following the statue unveiling, guests are welcome to tour the museum.

**New Members, cont'd.**

**Individual**

Marco Amador, Sharon  
Ann Armbruster, Oklahoma City  
James Armstrong, Sulphur  
Christian Beratto, Mill Creek  
Bill Gumerson and Associates, Oklahoma City  
Karen Billy, Sulphur  
Robert Bowles, Tulsa  
Lacy Bufford, Blackwell  
Jim Bullock, Littleton, CO  
Robert Coleman, Yukon  
Carl Davis, Fort Smith, AR  
Timothy Dawson, Ardmore  
Carolyn Deatherage, Norman  
Tiffany Earle, Tulsa  
Carol Ellis-Jones, Tulsa  
P. A. Empie, Oklahoma City  
Thaddeus Farris, Marble City  
Norma Foreman, Prague  
John Francis, Broken Arrow  
Ron Grimes, Fairfax, VA  
Joi Grissom, Earlsboro  
William Hampton, Paoli  
Leola Houchin, Butler  
Amanda Hudson, Sulphur  
Sharon Kirk, Sacramento, CA  
Traci Lemley, Sulphur  
Geron Loveland, Cushing  
John McCandless, Edmond  
Wayne McGee, Tulsa  
Mike Mitchell, Norman  
Christopher Nulph, Enid  
Justin Parker, Ada  
Jacie Rife, Welch  
Poracha Robinson, Midwest City  
Kathleen Shea, Lawrence, KS  
Charles Sinor, Ada  
Lorraine Smith, Okmulgee  
Kari Snow, Konawa  
Jennifer Spiegel, McAlester  
Jessica Spires, Elmore City  
Beverly Taylor, Muskogee  
Deanna Teague, Maysville  
Pat Thompson, Stillwater  
Norman Tippeconnie, Perkins  
Robert Vick, Edmond  
Jonathan Wallace, Arapaho  
Sherman Warrior, Marland  
Lisa Webster, Elmore City  
Truman Whorton, Kansas  
Jim Wilhite, Westville  
Helen Wormuth, Broken Arrow

**Organizational**

Guymon Public Library and Arts Center, Guymon



**Twenty-year members renew in January**

Listed below, with the date they joined the OHS, are people and organizations that, when they renewed their memberships in January, have been members twenty or more years. Their long-term loyalty is most sincerely appreciated!

Huntington Library, San Marino, CA,  
January 8, 1967  
University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, TX,  
October 1, 1972  
Kenny and Diane Brown, Edmond, May 1, 1976  
Maris Ward, Stillwater, November 1, 1977  
Woodward Public Library, Woodward,  
June 1, 1979  
Suzanne Crawford, Lawton, November 1, 1982  
David Stevens, Noble, January 2, 1984  
Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee,  
January 1, 1986  
David and Jean Kelsay, Meeker, August 25, 1986  
Nancy Davies, Enid, October 31, 1986  
Eva Gerard-Baker, Denison, TX, February 9, 1987  
Charles Jones, Oklahoma City, January 8, 1988  
Gene Ratcliff, Edmond, November 8, 1988  
Lois Batey, Oklahoma City, December 15, 1988  
John Heisch, Oklahoma City, January 31, 1989

Choctaw Library, Choctaw, December 1, 1990  
George Verstraete, Oklahoma City,  
November 25, 1991  
Nella Martin, Tulsa, December 3, 1991  
Wendell and Rebecca Morton, Stillwater,  
December 13, 1991  
Tulsa City County Library, Tulsa, January 3, 1992  
Claire Martin, Springfield, IL, January 28, 1992  
David Moore, Columbia, MO, September 2, 1992  
Spiro State Bank, Spiro, December 23, 1992  
Joanna Champlin and Shawnee Brittan, Oklahoma  
City, April 20, 1993  
Larry Wingo, Yukon, May 10, 1993  
Mary Foster, Stillwater, February 22, 1994  
John McCandless, Edmond, December 9, 1994  
G. A. Rymer, Edmond, February 9, 1995  
Haskell Indian Nation University Library, Lawrence,  
KS, February 28, 1995

Oklahoma Historical Society  
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICALS



Smithsonian Affiliations  
Membership Program

March events at a glance

- 1-26

Fourth annual *Trappings of the Cherokee Strip* exhibit of fine Western art and custom cowboy gear, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 5

First Saturday Hands-on History program, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 11

T. B. Ferguson Home annual chicken noodle dinner, Blaine County Fairgrounds, Watonga
- 12

Second annual Scout Spring Fling, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 12

Beginning soap making class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19

“Campfire Cooking” Family Saturday program, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
- 19

Sixth annual Cowboy Roundup, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 19

Twenty-ninth annual Family Kite Flite Day, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 20-21

Vernal Equinox Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
- 24

Susan B. Anthony presentation for Women’s History Month, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
- 26

Annual Easter Egg Hunt, T. B. Ferguson Home, Watonga
- 26

Spring Bake Day, Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
- 26

“Searching for Pioneers: Native Women Writers of Oklahoma in Urban Homelands” lecture by Dr. Lindsey Claire Smith, Pioneer Woman Museum, Ponca City
- 26

Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 27

Easter Sunrise Service and Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association Easter Breakfast Fundraiser, Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee
- 30-31

Fur Trade Rendezvous, Fort Washita Historic Site, Durant

Please visit [www.okhistory.org/calendar](http://www.okhistory.org/calendar) for a complete list of OHS events, programs, and exhibits.

Mistletoe Leaves

Vol. 47, No. 3

March 2016

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center  
announces donation and upcoming events

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center recently received a late Christmas gift, a new four-seater golf cart. The golf cart was a donation from Astellas Pharma Technologies in Norman, Oklahoma. For many years Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center had a golf cart that helped physically challenged individuals access the two miles of trails around the prehistoric mound site. However, when that cart became unrepairable and funding was not available due to continued state budget cuts, accessibility was limited to a donated wheelchair. Now all visitors will have an opportunity to experience Oklahoma’s only prehistoric American Indian archaeological site that is open to the public. This is a great example of public and private cooperation, providing a better experience for all guests.



During the month of March, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center has three days of exciting events and invites the public to attend. Celebrate the beginning of spring at the twenty-ninth annual Family Kite Flite Day on Saturday, March 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Family Kite Flite Day is a free admission day, but donations are appreciated. Each year since 1987, Spiro Mounds has hosted a day of spring fun and learning. Guests are welcome to bring lawn chairs, blankets, picnics, and kites to this free event. Kite flying demonstrations, arts and crafts vendors, a children’s area, bubble making, a sandbox where visitors can dig for treasures, and kite giveaways are just a few of the activities that will take place. The OHS, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, and the Spiro Mounds Development Association with help from the Fort Coffee Fire Department and the scout troops of Spiro sponsor this event.

On March 20 and 21, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will host a series of guided Vernal Equinox Walks. Each day there will be three walks at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m., led by archaeologist and manager Dennis Peterson. Each Vernal Equinox Walk will take approximately two hours and require one mile of easy walking. Attendees will learn about the importance of spring to American Indians. Peterson will tell about this unique, prehistoric American Indian mound site, the types of mounds, why they were created, and why some of the mounds are lined up for the sunsets of the solstices and equinoxes. He will discuss the history of the excavations, American Indian ceremonies and stories, tales of the unusual happenings associated with the mounds and answer your questions. There is a small fee for this series of tours of \$3 for adults and \$2 for children, in addition to the daily admission fee. No reservations are required except for large groups. Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center is located three miles east of Spiro, Oklahoma, on Highway 9/271 and four miles north on Lock and Dam Road. For more information please contact Dennis Peterson at [spiro@okhistory.org](mailto:spiro@okhistory.org) or 918-962-2062.