

OAS President's Message

I hope your summer has been as great an opportunity for renewal as mine has been. But I also hope you are all looking forward as much as I am to the new academic year and the opportunities it provides. And, as always, OAS will be there to help you realize these opportunities. Most of you are educators, and you don't get paid enough, and you (like me) are in this line of work because we really love to open the eyes of our students to the beauty and peril of the world. OAS does not help much with the peril part (aside from an occasional symposium about science-based issues) but we can help you a lot with the beauty part.

First, remember that we have a field meeting coming up this fall. We will meet at Lake Wister State Park, in southeastern Oklahoma, on September 25-27. As always, there will be a Friday evening program, a Saturday of field trips, and a Saturday evening program, with camp cleanup and departure Sunday morning. Every field meeting is a wonderful chance to have trip leaders help you to see things, whether plants or birds or fungi or geographical features, which you might otherwise have walked past without noticing. Bring your students or offer them extra credit for coming. I require my students to write a short essay about it for extra credit, just to make sure they were paying attention. If any of you have suggestions for Friday and Saturday speakers, or wish to lead a field trip, contact me (srice@se.edu) or David Bass (dbass@uco.edu) and we will forward your ideas to field meeting organizers. Registration information will be available soon on this website. Watch for email announcements.

Second, remember that we have a scientific meeting November Friday November 13 at Oklahoma City University. It is a good place for you and your students to present your research in a supportive atmosphere. It is also a good place for you to learn something new. I always feel my brain grow at these meetings. I would like to call your special attention to the Science Communication and Education section. Whatever our professional scientific fields, we all do a lot of educating and communicating, and I would urge you to contribute a paper to this section in addition to your professional section. Science Communication and Education is not just for people who do educational research. That's what I plan to do, with a presentation about modern science and an ancient Roman philosopher.

Remember that we have a blog (<http://scienceoklahoma.blogspot.com>) and I would encourage you to submit information to me that you might want to have posted, regarding interesting things you have done or experienced (related to science, of course), or, after the Technical meeting, an essay based on your presentation. The Proceedings publishes abstracts, but maybe you would like to

summarize your presentation in an informal way, and with color photos, both of which are unsuited to the mission of the Proceedings but perfect for a blog. Check it out; I don't relish being almost the only contributor.

On your most distant radar, remember our spring field meeting at Beaver's Bend. I look forward to hearing from and seeing many of you this coming year.

Stan Rice, President
Oklahoma Academy of Science