



APPANOOSE AREA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

3rd Quarter 2026

AAPS Newsletter

www.appanoosemuseum.org

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President: Tom Billings
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Treasurer: Virginia Cook
Secretary: Janet Radcliffe
Barb Engel: Volunteer Coordinator
Technology: Lori Johnson
Community: Mary McClure
Community: Davey Kiker
Curator: Keith Tate

CONTACT A MEMBER IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING

2026 Activities at a glance

October 25th - Safe & Aware

Featuring Corporal J. Wiscombe & K9 Stryker

November 14th - Quilt Show

December 5th - Extravaganza

Private Tours available on request

See the last page for details
on our upcoming events!

A Special Look Back at Telephone History



In July, the Appanoose Museum welcomed Eileen Davis of the Osage Historical Society for a special presentation on the history of telephone and switchboard operators.

Eileen brought the history to life by sharing her own experiences working with telephone switchboards. Her first exposure came around 1946–1947, when she was only six years old. By 1949, at age nine, she was working with the phones in Maize, Kansas, where the system served approximately 200 subscribers. She recalled earning 10 cents an hour and continued doing this work through about age 14.

Eileen continued working in telephone service as an adult beginning in 1955. She eventually retired from Southwestern Bell in 1990 after 31 years of service.

Her presentation also offered a glimpse into a very different time, when it was not unusual for children to work and help support their families.

Pokemon Club at the Museum

The Appanoose Museum has added a new activity for young visitors with the start of our Pokémon Club. Club members are welcome to bring their cards to trade, learn how to play, and spend time with other Pokémon fans. The club provides a fun and welcoming place for kids to share their interest in Pokémon while enjoying time together at the museum.



Davey Kiker, Pokémon Club organizer and museum board member, and Max take a closer look at some of the cards in Davey's collection.

Annual Arrowhead Show

Behind the Scenes: Getting ready for the Arrowhead Show



Early Saturday morning, tables stood ready as exhibitors began arriving and setting out their collections for the Annual Arrowhead Show. The room was just beginning to take shape, but you could already feel the energy as exhibitors and volunteers stayed busy preparing for the day ahead.

Behind the Scenes: Getting ready for the Arrowhead Show



A Showstopper from the Past — Jeff Sypher and Virginia Cook take a closer look at a mammoth femur displayed by exhibitor Gary Edington of Emporia. Found in a creek bed, the impressive fossil drew plenty of attention throughout the day. And like any seasoned collector, Gary keeps the exact location of his find a closely guarded secret!



Meanwhile, Lunch Was Cooking! — Board member Mary McClure keeps an eye on the sloppy joe meat as lunch preparations get underway. While exhibitors were busy setting up their displays, volunteers were just as busy behind the scenes getting ready to feed our guests.



Something for Our Young Visitors, Too! — Becky Stoneking helped keep our younger visitors busy at the children's activity table, where Morgan, Abigail and Isabella enjoyed some hands-on fun during the Arrowhead Show.



The Show Takes Shape — It didn't take long for those empty tables to begin filling with artifacts and displays as exhibitors arrived and prepared to welcome visitors.

Annual Arrowhead Show: Event Overview

A little rain didn't dampen the day! While skies were gray and occasional showers moved through the area, visitors found plenty to see and do indoors at the Annual Arrowhead Show.



Tyler Watts & Kylie Watts - Pomona

Honoring the Collection of Doug Watts — Tyler and Kylie Watts proudly shared the collection of their father, longtime collector Doug Watts. This year's Arrowhead Show honored Doug and his passion for collecting, with pieces from his collection featured on the 2026 show T-shirt. Having Tyler and Kylie here to share his collection made the tribute especially meaningful.

Visitors Near and Far

The Annual Arrowhead Show welcomed visitors from near and far, with 116 individuals and families signing our guest register throughout the day. Because families often registered together under a single entry, the actual number of people attending was considerably higher.

Kansas visitors came from communities across the region and state, including Pomona, Quenemo, Vassar, Ottawa, Lawrence, Emporia, Wichita, Leavenworth, Overland Park and many others. We were also delighted to welcome guests from Missouri, Texas, Indiana, California, Ohio, Illinois, Florida and South Dakota.

Meet the Exhibitors



Alan Fine - Quenemo



Gary Edgington - Emporia



Mike Kraft - Emporia



Josh & Abigail Slocum - Rantoul



Kale Link - Williamsburg



Dan Hutchinson - Rantoul

Meet the Exhibitors



Jeff and Jasper Sypher - Melvern



Tyler Watts - Pomona



Ben Streeter - Vassar



Killian O'Connor - Valley Falls

Meet the Exhibitors



David Schock



Bret Clark - Pomona

What's the Story Behind Those Horns?

This impressive *Bison antiquus* skull cap features a 34-inch tip-to-tip horn spread. *Bison antiquus* became extinct around 10,000 years ago.

David Schock of Holton discovered this rare find in 2012 on a gravel bar in the Big Blue River south of Blue Rapids, Kansas.

Best New Find

Congratulations to Killian O'Connor of Valley Falls, this year's Best New Find winner for his Angostura spear point, found in Atchison County. Board President Tom Billings presented Killian with his certificate during the show.



Lunch and Fellowship



Janet Radcliffe, Mary McClure and Tom Billings keep the serving line moving.



Barb Engel takes lunch orders and collects payments.



Lunch gave visitors and exhibitors a chance to sit down, catch up and enjoy a little fellowship.



And we couldn't resist this little cutie enjoying lunchtime at the Arrowhead Show!

Homemade Ice Cream



Morgan Rogers and Barb Engel serving up delicious cake and ice cream



Barb Engel joined in to assist in serving the cake and ice cream

A Favorite Arrowhead Show Tradition

Homemade ice cream is always a much-anticipated treat at the Annual Arrowhead Show, and this year there was no shortage of flavors to sample! Guests could choose from pawpaw, peach, strawberry, chocolate and butter pecan. Pawpaw, a wild fruit native to our area, added a special local flavor to the selection.

With special thanks to our ice cream makers



PawPaw - Morgan Rogers

Peach - Morgan Rogers

Cookie Dough - Morgan Rogers

Strawberry - Jeff & Tracey Syher

Chocolate - Jeff & Tracey Sypher

Butter Pecan - Jasper Sypher

The line says it all — homemade ice cream is always a favorite at the Arrowhead Show!

Volunteer Spotlight

It Takes a Team!

From welcoming visitors and serving meals to handling merchandise and supporting the scholarship fund, our volunteers kept things running smoothly throughout the Arrowhead Show. We are grateful for the many hands—and many hours—that helped make the day a success.



Terry Altic

Terry has been part of the Appanoose Museum since its beginning, serving as both a board member and dedicated volunteer. During the Arrowhead Show,

Terry once again lent a hand by welcoming visitors and helping with the guest register.



Janis Watts

Janis welcomed guests as they arrived and helped make sure visitors signed our guest register.



Virginia Cook and Barb Engel

Virginia handled museum merchandise sales while Barb took lunch orders and collected meal payments.



Tom Billings

Tom grew and donated plants for a special sale benefiting the AAPS School Scholarship Fund, helping turn his green thumb into support for local students.

Through Their Eyes: Voices from the Arrowhead Show

Every visitor experiences the Arrowhead Show a little differently. For some, it is a familiar tradition—a chance to return, reconnect with fellow collectors and friends, and see what new treasures have been found since last year. For others, this year marked their first visit and an opportunity to discover the collections, stories and people that make the show special.

We visited with several of our guests throughout the day and asked them to share a little about what brought them to the Arrowhead Show and what they enjoyed most. Here are a few of their stories, in their own words.

Morgan Rogers



Morgan Rogers visits with Tyler Watts during the show



Morgan and Barb ready to serve homemade ice cream

Connection to the Museum:

Morgan's father, Denny Slankard, is a longtime area resident and repeat exhibitor who grew up with this year's honoree, Doug Watts. The two shared many artifact-hunting adventures over the years. Morgan has made the show part of her own tradition, returning each year and helping with the homemade ice cream.

Favorite Exhibit:

This year, Morgan especially enjoyed David Schock's collection, including an impressive large spear point.

What did she discover this year?

The care collectors put into displaying their finds. She found herself noticing the intricate arrangements of artifacts within the cases and the thought and design that went into creating each display.

Dean Trimble - Quenemo KS



Connection to the Museum:

A local resident and familiar face at the Annual Arrowhead Show, he returns each year to enjoy the collections and visit with exhibitors.

Favorite Part of the Show:

Rather than choosing one particular exhibit, he most enjoys visiting with the individual exhibitors and seeing the size and variety of some of the larger collections. For him, the conversations with collectors are an important part of the show.

What did he discover this year?

This year he enjoyed meeting Kale Link, a first-time exhibitor with a background in paleontology. Kale is also the author of *A Prehistoric Odyssey: Gone to the Great Dying*. His participation brought a new perspective to this year's show.

Casey, Cybill, Ivy, Colton - Overbrook KS



Connection to the Museum:

This local family has attended the Arrowhead Show before, and with the children attending the elementary school just behind the museum, they have a close connection to the community. This year, they spotted the Arrowhead Show announcement on the museum marquee and decided to come back for another visit.

Favorite Exhibit:

The family had two favorites—the impressive mammoth femur and a large image of Chief Appanoose displayed by one of the exhibitors. Both stood out among the many artifacts and displays they explored during the show.

What did they discover this year?

Colton was especially impressed by the size of some of the artifacts. Seeing them up close gave him a better sense of just how large some of these pieces really are.

Ginger House - Olathe KS



Connection to the Museum:

Ginger was a first-time visitor to the Appanoose Museum and Arrowhead Show. Her family was camping at nearby Pomona Lake when she spotted information about the show in a Facebook artifact group and decided to come see it for herself.

Favorite Part of the Show:

Ginger especially enjoyed Alan Fine's collection. She was impressed not only by the collection itself, but also by Alan's knowledge of the artifacts and the opportunity to learn from an experienced collector.

What did she discover this year?

With a husband who is also an artifact hunter, Ginger was familiar with many of the types of pieces on display. What surprised her was the variety and color found in the local collections, which were noticeably different from the artifacts her husband has found.

Sharing the Show Beyond Appanoose

Ginger also has her own YouTube channel and spent time filming the Arrowhead Show during her visit. We're excited that our exhibits and collectors will have the opportunity to reach an even wider audience through her video.

Scan to watch Ginger's visit



A Special Thank You to Ginger

We sincerely thank Ginger for taking the time to capture and share the Arrowhead Show. Her video offers a wonderful look at the exhibitor displays featured throughout the show. If you weren't able to attend this year, be sure to scan the QR code and take a virtual walk through the show!

Pritchard Family - Grantville KS



Joe, Shannon and Casen

Connection to the Museum:

This was the family's first visit to the Arrowhead Show, but they already had connections to the world of artifact collecting. Joe works with longtime Arrowhead Show exhibitor Jeff Sypher, while Shannon grew up with a family connection to collecting through her grandfather.

Favorite Part of the Show:

For Casen, the standout was the mammoth femur displayed by Gary Edington. The impressive size of the bone made it one of his favorite discoveries of the day.

What did they discover this year?

The family was impressed by the variety of shapes and sizes represented among the artifacts. Seeing so many different pieces together gave them a new appreciation for just how much variety can be found among the collections.

Coming Home to Appanoose

Following a family reunion at Shadeland Buffalo Farm, 15 grandchildren of Ted and Opal Beauchamp, along with their Uncle Gary and Carolyn, made a special visit to the Appanoose Museum and the former Appanoose High School.

The visit brought the family back to a place with deep roots in their history. Ted and Opal's five children — Glen, Jack, Betty, Jim and Gary — were all graduates of Appanoose High School. Gary, the only surviving sibling, joined the family for this special return to the school that was once such an important part of their lives.



The Beauchamp family gathers outside the former Appanoose High School during their special visit to the museum.

Different visitors. Different discoveries.

Whether returning year after year or experiencing the Arrowhead Show for the first time, each guest found something that caught their attention, sparked a conversation or gave them something new to take home from the day.

The Appanoose Museum — Preserving Our Past, Inspiring Our Future.

Museum Announcements

SAFE & AWARE: A COMMUNITY SAFETY PROGRAM – OCTOBER 25 – 2 PM

Corporal Jayson Wiscombe and his K9 partner Stryker from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department will join us for a special community safety program. Corporal Wiscombe will discuss local crime, crime prevention, reporting suspicious activity, law enforcement response, scam awareness, and the role of a K9 team in law enforcement. Following the approximately 30-minute presentation, the audience will have 30 minutes to ask questions.

Stryker will be present for the program. Please remember that he is a working K9 and should not be approached or petted.

APPANOOSE RED, WHITE & BLUE QUILT SHOW – NOVEMBER 14 – 9 AM – 3 PM

Celebrate America through the art of quilting! Enjoy a beautiful display of quilts showcasing creativity, craftsmanship, and the traditions passed from generation to generation.

SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA – DECEMBER 5 – 9 AM – 3 PM

Shop local and find something special for everyone on your Christmas list! Browse a variety of handcrafted gifts, baked goods, holiday décor, handcrafted wood items, home-canned goods, and more from local vendors. A wonderful opportunity to find unique gifts while supporting local makers and our community.

Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for volunteers to help keep the museum active and welcoming. Opportunities include:

- Helping set up for events
- Cleaning and organizing
- Assisting in moving/creating/cataloging exhibits
- Construction or repair skills of any kind
- General maintenance and improvement projects
- Social media experience with personal or business accounts

There is never a shortage of projects at the museum, and any help is greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out!

appanoosemuseum@gmail.com or (785) 418-5721 or (931) 241-8001

As we celebrate our community's connection to America's 250-year story, we are grateful to everyone who helps make the Appanoose Museum possible. Thank you to our volunteers, visitors, members, donors, and friends who give their time, share their memories, support our events, and help preserve our local history. Your continued support allows us to share the stories of those who came before us and preserve them for generations to come.

We'd Love to Hear From You!

Have a question, suggestion, or idea for the Museum Newsletter? Please contact Lori Johnson at appanoosemuseum@gmail.com. We welcome your comments and ideas!