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George H. Colvin

Spring is finally here and I know many of us are anxious to get into the fields and hunt artifacts. Make sure you have permission from the land owner and be sure to label and catalog your finds.

In February, I attended the ASO Ripley Show in Ripley, Ohio. Congratulations to the Fort Salem Chapter who puts on the show every year. The show was well run and very well attended. I met some members I had not met before and we signed up a number of new members. Whenever I attend Chapter meetings, shows, midwestern archaeological events, and auctions, I am always surprised at the number of people with a passion for Ohio archaeology that are not members of the ASO. Earlier this year, I appointed Paul Hothem to Chair the ASO Membership Committee. Paul and I filled the committee with hard-working, dedicated people with a proven record of signing up new members and with innovative ideas on how to grow our society. Many of the members of the committee had not served the ASO before in any capacity. Paul and his committee have put into place specific actions designed to both gain new members and to make sure we don’t lose existing members. I want to highlight several of the things Paul has underway. First, we plan to focus on the youth through 4H clubs across the state and have put together an “Introduction to Flint Tools” program for 4H members. At the last board meeting, we approved a motion to provide children of paying members with their own ASO Kids’ Membership card.

We will be attending, promoting, and signing up new members at more shows, archaeological events, auctions, and county fairs in Ohio and surrounding states. We will be encouraging Chapters to buy memberships for local schools and libraries. We are also planning on the forthcoming new web site playing an important role in gaining new members.

I am pleased to say that thanks to the hard work of Paul, his committee, and many of our members, we are beginning to see, for the first time in years, an increase in membership. Do your part to strengthen our society, sign up a new member today.

Sincerely,

George H. Colvin