



**Mythcon 54:
Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66
July 24-27, 2026
Weatherford, OK
Stafford Air & Space Museum**

Progress Report #2

Including updates on the keynote speeches, banquet, a list of selected papers and panels, ridesharing, confirmed dealers, and more!

[Mythcon 54 Website](#)

A NOTE ON THIS YEAR'S EVENT

This year, Mythcon 54 will take place in Weatherford, Oklahoma, the home of the Mythopoeic Society's archives, which are housed at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU). Weatherford is a one-hour drive from the Will Rogers International Airport in Oklahoma City. Attendees will need to prepare to arrange for their own ground transportation between the airport and Weatherford and to travel around town during the conference. More information on transportation recommendations is provided in the "Transportation" section later in this report.

About Mythcon

The Mythopoeic Society Conference, informally known as "Mythcon," is an annual(ish) Tolkien, Inklings, and Mythopoeia-focused conference held over an extended weekend in late-July to mid-August, beginning on a Friday afternoon and concluding on the following Monday midday. The location changes for each conference.

The conference theme is always related to Inklings studies and/or fantastic and mythic literature, and both an author and scholar guest of honor are featured. Various combinations of papers, panel discussions, readings, entertainment, art shows, a dealers' room, and other activities fill the three-day event.

Another Mythcon highlight is the annual banquet, during which the annual Mythopoeic Awards are presented. A small (usually 100–200 people) size and intimate setting make Mythcon an excellent opportunity for meeting people with common interests. The full history and individual conference pages can be viewed by visiting the [Mythcon History](#) web page.

The Mythopoeic Society has always encouraged scholarship in mythopoeic and Inklings studies by providing a venue where new and established scholars can present their work, and which may also be considered for publication in *Mythlore*, the Society's academic journal. Financial aid to attend Mythcon may be available for scholars, and outstanding student scholars are recognized with the Alexei Kondratiev Award.

Also on tap at Mythcon are fun and some serious play: a Masquerade with prizes for everyone, Bardic Circles in the evenings for singing and poetry recitations, the annual Clerihew Contest of comic verse, and Golfimbul, a light-hearted game based on a humorous section from "The Hobbit."

About Our Theme

The Route 66 Centennial is being celebrated across Oklahoma during 2026. (Interesting fact: Oklahoma has more miles of Route 66 – 432 miles – than any other state.) As the subject of countless stories about physical and personal journeys, the iconic highway is an appropriate setting for a conference on fantasy literature, in which journeys in place and time are often central.

Guests of Honor

Mythcon 54's Guests of Honor are especially fitting as both are native Oklahomans.

David R. Slayton

Author Guest of Honor

Award-winning author David R. Slayton writes fantasy stories with diverse characters he dreamed of reading but could not find as a child growing up in Guthrie, OK.

Slayton's work has twice been a finalist for the Mythopoeic Awards. His epic fantasy, *Dark Moon, Shallow Sea*, won the Science Fiction and Fantasy category at the 2024 Colorado Book Awards. In 2021, the first novel in the Adam Binder series, *White Trash Warlock*, was a finalist for the Science Fiction and Fantasy category at the Colorado Book Awards. His most prominent works include the Adam Binder series (*White Trash Warlock*, *Trailer Park Trickster*, *Deadbeat Druid*, *Redneck Revenant*), a finalist for the 2024 Mythopoeic Award for Adult Literature; *Dark Moon, Shallow Sea*, the first novel in the *Gods of Day and Night* epic fantasy series; and *Rogue Community College*, also set in the Adam Binder universe. Slayton holds degrees in history and English from Metropolitan State University in Denver, where he now resides. After a long career in computer science, he now writes full-time. Slayton's books reflect his wide range of interests, including literature, history, Dungeons and Dragons, video gaming, graphic novels, and all things fantasy and science fiction.



Dr. Joe R. Christopher

Scholar Guest of Honor

A Bartlesville, OK native, Dr. Joe R. Christopher is a two-time honoree as Mythcon Scholar Guest of Honor, having first been recognized in 1981.

Christopher is a retired English professor from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, TX, and has attended almost all Mythcons. His scholarly work on the Inklings began early in his career, including his doctoral dissertation on C. S. Lewis, "The Romances of Clive Staples Lewis," with many secondary citations. These citations, combined with Joan K. Osling's religious citations, were published as *C. S. Lewis: An Annotated Checklist of Writings About Him and His Works* (Kent State University Press, 1974). A prolific writer, he has published more than 200 scholarly essays and notes, with a significant concentration on the Inklings. He is a recipient of the Neuhouser Award for Distinguished Scholarship and Service, on June 2, 2018, at the Eleventh Frances White Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis & Friends (Taylor University, Upland, IN). Christopher is also a lifetime member of the C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society.



Mythcon 54 Theme & Call for Papers

Mythcon 54: *Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66* invites proposals for papers that explore fantasy, horror, sci-fi, indigenous texts – of all genres and modes – that evoke a sense of place, of travel, of the road, of passage through landscapes, which potentially spark encounters with the uncanny, the fantastical, and the nightmarish. Themes or patterns might include:

- Lost highways
- Surprising road trips or short cuts
- Portals to the unknown
- Temporal shifts across boundaries
- A sense of the fluid experience of “the road”
- Faerie and the fay
- Indigenous or folkloric roads/passages that alter reality, consciousness, and time

Also, in keeping with the Mythopoeic Society’s archive residing near the conference at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, presentations on the role of archives in fantasy literature would be welcome. General proposals highlighting the Inklings or other works of fantasy/Mythopoeia, of course, are also always welcome, as are papers on the works and interests of our guests of honor. Papers from a variety of critical perspectives and disciplines are welcome.

Each paper will be given a 50-minute slot to allow time for questions and travel time in between sessions. Individual papers should be timed for oral presentation in 40 minutes maximum. Panels are also welcome, with the same time constraints, and both papers and panels may be presented virtually or in person.

Participants are encouraged to submit papers chosen for presentation at the conference to *Mythlore*, the refereed journal of the Mythopoeic Society. (These submissions must conform to the 9th edition of the MLA Style Manual.) Paper abstracts and panel proposals of no more than 300 words, along with contact information, whether you intend to present in-person or virtually, and A/V requirements (if any, should be sent to the Papers Coordinator (Cami Agan) at papers@mythcon.org by March 31, 2026. All presenters are expected to register for the full conference, either in-person or online, depending on their method of presentation.

Presenters who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students are encouraged to submit their completed conference papers in advance for consideration for the Alexei Kondratiev Student Paper Award. Please see www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm for more information.

The Mythopoeic Society has instituted a policy on AI-generated content for our events and publications. It can be viewed [here](#). Please review and consider this policy when preparing your submission.

The Mythcon 54 call for papers can also be found at [this link](#). Submissions are now closed.

Alexei Kondratiev Award (Student Paper)

At Mythcon 41, the Society introduced a new award for the best paper presented at Mythcon by an undergraduate or graduate student. This award was named in honor of Alexei Kondratiev, long-time Society member and a scholar of wide-ranging interests in mythopoeic and related studies, who passed away in 2010. The winner of the award receives a certificate, a one-year subscription to *Mythlore*, and a 50% discount on their registration fee for the next Mythcon they attend. The winner will be announced at the Mythcon banquet, on the Society's web site and in *Mythprint*, and is encouraged to submit their paper to *Mythlore* for publication. More information and the award application can be found on our web site: www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/alexei.htm

In order to be considered for the award, the application form must be submitted to the Alexi committee chair at mythlore@mythsoc.org by July 5th, 2026 and the finished paper must be submitted electronically by July 19th, 2026. The paper must follow *Mythlore* style guidelines and should be 4,000–8,000 words long. Applicants must be accepted in or currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at the time their abstract was submitted. Applicants must attend Mythcon and present the paper, either virtually or in person, to qualify for the award.

Glen GoodKnight Starving Scholars Fund

The Mythopoeic Society's Starving Scholars Fund was renamed in honor of our founder, Glen GoodKnight, upon his passing in November 2010. Glen always emphasized the importance of encouraging scholarship in Inklings studies and was happy to see this fund come into existence in 1993. The Fund supports attendance at Mythcon for scholars and other participants. Preference is given to persons presenting a paper or participating on a panel, though others are not automatically excluded from consideration. Awards consist of a contribution toward room & board costs or, very rarely, other conference expenses such as travel costs. The Mythcon Papers Coordinator, in consultation with the Mythopoeic Society Council of Stewards and the Conference Committee, makes the final decision as to award recipients, amounts, and application of funds. No more than half of the Fund's balance may be used in any given year. Contact papers@mythcon.org for more information.

Mythcon 54 Schedule and Programming Overview

NEW: Keynote subjects announced

The Mythcon 54 registration table will open at noon on Friday, July 24, and program items will start at 2 p.m. Friday and continue until dinner. After dinner we will have our casual meet-and-greet Welcome Reception, sponsored by the Council of Stewards. The reception will honor the Centennial of Route 66, AKA the Mother Road. Both the conference hotel and meeting place sit on Route 66, which becomes Main Street as it passes through Weatherford.

We are planning for a Hospitality Room and Bardic Circle to be available on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights.

On Saturday morning, July 25, the Procession and Opening Ceremonies will start at approximately 9 a.m., including our Scholar Guest of Honor address.

Saturday, July 25

Scholar Guest of Honor Address

Scholar Guest of Honor Joe R. Christopher will speak on **“The Rhetoric of the Road: The Romantic Journey as a Map of Myth, Memory, and Majesty.”**

Coinciding with the Centennial of Route 66 and the American Semicentennial, this valedictory address serves as a reflective capstone to a sixty-year career in Inklings scholarship. Framing the address as his final Mythcon appearance, the speaker invites the audience to view both personal history and speculative literature through a singular conceptual lens: the grand architecture of the Romantic Journey.

The address bridges the primary world of the American open road with the secondary worlds of the mythic imagination. It traces the speaker’s own scholarly lineage back to a formative high school bus trip to an early science fiction convention—his very first unmapped journey away from home—which served as the fertile soil for a lifelong passion for fandom and academia. This personal evolution mirrors the history of the Mythopoeic Society itself, which successfully transformed from its countercultural fan roots into a respected international academic tradition, all while fiercely preserving its original, whimsical soul.

Turning to literary analysis, the speech explores the “hidden world” archetype, demonstrating how speculative landscapes strip complex moral dilemmas of modern, real-world distractions. By examining how authors use a cozy, domestic aesthetic to mask perilous environments of moral testing, the speaker highlights the profound spiritual discoveries reserved for those willing to wander beyond the familiar.

Ultimately, this address is a celebratory defense of the mythic tradition, linking memory, landscape, and literature into a unified map, and passing the torch to a new generation to keep the scholarly lineage unbroken.

Following the morning keynote are more papers and panels throughout the day, breaking for lunch and dinner.

After-dinner entertainments will include a Masquerade and other post-programming activities.

Attention, auction devotees!

As always, the traditional Society auction will have a mixture of silent and live auction items. Bruce Leonard and Gary Hunnewell will be managing the auction, with Bruce being the official auctioneer. Please notify us in advance of items you plan to donate to the auction, if possible. If you plan to drive to Mythcon, we would ask you to consider bringing your donations with you and leave them in the dealer's room at the Mythopoeic Society's table when you arrive on Friday. If you need to ship your donations in advance, they may be mailed to the Mythcon 54 Chair, Phillip Fitzsimmons (701 E. Huber, Weatherford, OK, 73096). This traditional event is fun and offers the possibility of finding those rare items for which you have been searching, so be sure to bring your wallets!

Sunday, July 26

Programming continues Sunday, concluding with the traditional Mythcon Banquet, Author Guest of Honor address, and Mythopoeic Awards ceremony on Sunday evening.

Author Guest of Honor Address

Author Guest of Honor David R. Slayton will speak on "**Fantasy as a Tool of Resilience and Resistance.**"

We find ourselves in a dire reality. America is facing a literacy crisis, especially among the young. College professors are sounding the alarm that students are entering higher education without having read a full novel while book bans are limiting access to reading materials. Many libraries are preemptively removing works before anyone can protest their inclusion even as budgets are being cut. Reading for pleasure among adults is down significantly, as is reading comprehension, at a time when media literacy is made crucial by weaponized misinformation, outright gaslighting, and the proliferation of AI-generated media that is becoming increasingly hard to detect as artificial. Added to this is an ongoing environmental catastrophe.

None of this is aided by the ultrawealthy, who hope to remove access to the very elements that make us human: our capacity to create art and think for ourselves. The quiet part is being said out loud: "We see a future where intelligence is a utility like electricity or water and people buy it from us on a meter." – Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI.

In the midst of this sits fantasy literature, which, in all of its forms, including romantasy such as the books of Rebecca Yarros or comedic commentary such as Terry Pratchett's Discworld, can be part of the solution to these problems.

Authors of speculative fiction might be challenged to create realities even more threatening than our current, difficult world, but fantasy can provide escape, a reprieve. Beyond that, it can also provide a context for understanding the times we live in and give readers the means to survive them. The archetype of the fantasy hero is

one of overcoming impossible odds, or making a journey to the darkest places, and returning triumphant while perhaps shining a little light into the world along the way. This makes fantasy worth exploring and worth teaching. In it are the seeds, not only of resistance, but of resilience.

NEW: Finalists for the Mythopoeic Awards

Following David Slayton's keynote, the winners of the annual Mythopoeic Awards will be announced. (Criteria for selecting the winners are [here](#)). Here are the finalists:

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature

- Holly Black, *The Charlatan Duology* (also known as the *Book of Night* series), consisting of *Book of Night* (Tor Books 2022) and *Thief of Night* (Tor Books 2025)
- Martin Cahill, *Audition for the Fox* (Tachyon 2025)
- Lev Grossman, *The Bright Sword* (Viking 2024)
- T. Kingfisher, *Snake-Eater* (47North 2025)
- Jared Pechaček, *The West Passage* (Tordotcom 2024)
- Samantha Sotto Yambao, *Water Moon* (Del Rey 2025)
- Emily Tesh, *The Incandescent* (Tor 2025)

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Young Adult Literature

- K. Ancrum, *The Corruption of Hollis Brown* (HarperCollins 2025)
- Amber McBride, *The Leaving Room* (Feiwel & Friends 2025)
- Margaret Owen, *Little Thieves* series, consisting of *Little Thieves* (Henry Holt and Co. 2021), *Painted Devils* (Henry Holt and Co. 2023), and *Holy Terrors* (Henry Holt and Co. 2025)
- Vanessa L. Torres, *On the Wings of La Noche* (Knopf 2025)

Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature

- Aubrey Hartman, *The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest* (Little, Brown 2025)
- Sachiko Kashiwaba, *The Village Beyond the Mist*, translated by Avery Fischer Udagawa (Yonder 2025)
- Victor Pinheiro, *The Island of Forgotten Gods* (Sourcebooks Young Readers 2025)
- David A. Robertson, *The Misewa Saga*, consisting of *The Barren Grounds* (Tundra 2020), *The Great Bear* (Puffin Canada 2021), *The Stone Child* (Puffin Canada 2022), *The Portal Keeper* (Tundra 2023), *The Sleeping Giant* (Tundra 2024), and *The World's End* (Tundra 2025)

Mythopoeic Scholarship Award for Inklings Studies

- Anahit Behrooz, *Mapping Middle-earth: Environmental and Political Narratives in J.R.R. Tolkien's Cartographies* (Bloomsbury Academic 2024)
- Michael D. C. Drout, *The Tower and the Ruin: J.R.R. Tolkien's Creation* (Norton 2025)
- Verlyn Flieger, *A Real Taste for Fairy-Stories* (Walking Tree 2025)
- Thomas P. Hillman, *Pity, Power, and Tolkien's Ring: To Rule the Fate of Many* (Kent State UP 2023)
- Giuseppe Pezzini, *Tolkien and the Mystery of Literary Creation* (Cambridge UP 2025)
- Hamish Williams, *J.R.R. Tolkien's Utopianism and the Classics* (Bloomsbury Academic 2023)

Mythopoeic Scholarship Award for Myth and Fantasy Studies

- Patrick Curry, *Art and Enchantment: How Wonder Works* (Routledge 2023)
- Sophus Helle, editor, *Enheduanna: The Complete Poems of the World's First Author* (Yale University Press, 2023)
- Adam Roberts, *Fantasy: A Short History* (Bloomsbury Academic 2025)
- Paul R. Rovang, *The Archetype of the Dying and Rising God in World Mythology* (Lexington 2023)
- Dennis Wilson Wise, editor, *Speculative Poetry and the Modern Alliterative Revival: A Critical Anthology* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2023)

Monday, July 27

Final program items will start Monday morning around 9 a.m., followed by the Annual Mythopoeic Society Members Meeting (all are welcome) and closing ceremonies, concluding at midday. A post-conference tour is scheduled for the General Thomas P. Stafford Archives at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, home to the Mythopoeic Society digital archive, on Monday afternoon.

If you would like to propose a performance to be included in the Saturday evening entertainments, or during the Sunday evening banquet, please contact Tim Lenz, the Steward for Mythopoeic Events, at mythcon@mythsoc.org. Efforts will be made to stream as much academic and non-academic content online as possible for our virtual registrants.

Other items of interest

NEW: Here are just a few of the presentations scheduled!

- “Mythic Roads: Tolkien's Literary Network and Cosmopolitan Imagination,” by Hayden Bilbrey
- “Fangorn Forest as a Rerouting to the Ecological Contemplative in The Two Towers”, by Nicholas Birns
- Illustrating Lothlórien as a Faerie space in *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, by Marie Bretagnolle
- “Today’s Christianity: Are We in the Mirror Universe? A Comparison of Petrine Christianity and the Gospel of Mary via the Heroine’s Journey,” by Blythe “Collie” Collier
- “Between the Unexpected and the Unknown: The Liminal Transformation of Bilbo Baggins and Travelers Along Route 66,” Logan O. Uber
- “Perception as a gateway of Faërie in Owen Barfield’s philosophy of language,” Sylwia Wilczewska
- “The Road to Armageddon; Commonwealth Orcs, 1872-2000,” Joseph Rex Young

NEW: Meals and Banquet

The Council of Stewards will sponsor a Welcome Reception with light refreshments and a cash bar on Friday evening, and there will be a hospitality suite every night after the end of programming at Lucille’s Hotel. The hotel has an on-site restaurant (also the site of the monthly local Mythopoeic Society chapter meeting) and a grab-and-go market. Ground transportation is needed to access any of the other eateries in Weatherford.

The Mythcon 54 banquet will take place at the conference venue, the Stafford Air & Space Museum, surrounded by artifacts of flight and space exploration. The meal will be catered by Lucille's Roadhouse, the local restaurant associated with our conference hotel, and will include the following, served buffet-style:

Appetizers: Chips & Salsa, 'lil Smokies, Spring Rolls, Cheese Curds

Entrees: Choice of 8 oz. centre-cut pork chop or handmade hamburger steak, with mashed potatoes and green beans

Dessert: Cookies

Beverages: Red Diamond Iced Tea, Lucille's Lemonade, Coffee, Hot Tea, Water

A cash bar will also be available.

Please specify any dietary restrictions in the provided field when purchasing your

banquet ticket. If necessary, the caterer will provide a separate meal for you.

Banquet programming will include a keynote address by David R. Slayton, our Author Guest of Honor, the Mythopoeic Awards Ceremony, and more. Be sure that your table reserves some extra food for the traditional Mythcon food sculptures!

Banquet tickets will be available for purchase at the link below until July 22, 2026. If you have any trouble purchasing banquet tickets, please email mythcon@mythsoc.org.

[Mythcon 54 Banquet Tickets](#)

NEW: Weatherford throws out the welcome mat!



Local city officials are excited that Mythcon 54 has chosen Weatherford for its conference. In fact, the Weatherford City Commission (at the recommendation of the Hotel-Motel Tax Committee) unanimously approved a \$4,000 grant to help pay for the conference. In addition, the City Commission also unanimously approved a city proclamation declaring July 24-27, 2026 “Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66” Weekend.

Not to be outdone, Oklahoma’s state list of official Route 66 Centennial events includes Mythcon 54 “Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66.”

How can we show our gratitude for this Oklahoma welcome? We will write a follow-up report to the City Commission highlighting our conference and the participants.

We encourage you to visit some of the local businesses and attractions below, take photos of your adventures, and text them to Diane Fitzsimmons at 580-890-0517 for inclusion in our report to the City of Weatherford. Thank you in advance!

(Left: Mythopoeic Society Archivist Phillip Fitzsimmons accepts a proclamation declaring July 24-27, 2026 “Get Your Fantasy Kicks on Route 66” Weekend from Weatherford Mayor Mike Brown.)

Here are some suggestions for places to go and things to see:

Weatherford offers almost all the fast-food favorites and caffeine joints found in any college town, as well as several restaurants that are locally owned or found only in Oklahoma! Among the latter are:

- Boomarang Diner, boomarangdiner.com
- Casa Soto Mexican Restaurant, casasotorestaurant.com

- El Patio Mexican Grill, elpatiorestaurantsok.com
- Frida's Cocina Mexicana & Bar, <https://www.facebook.com/p/Fridas-Cocina-Mexicana-Weatherford-Okla-homa-61562778308016/>
- Jerry's Restaurant, www.jerrysrestaurants.com/weatherford
- Lucille's Roadhouse (next to the conference hotel), lucillesroadhouse.com
- Luigi's Italian Restaurant & Lounge, luigisitalianweatherford.com
- Nickels Point, nickelspoint.com
- Pecina's Mexican Café, pecinas.com
- The Shed Grill & Bar, theshedgrillandbar.com

Most importantly to the Mythopoeic Society, Weatherford is the location of the Society's archive, which is part of the Thomas A. Stafford Archives at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. A post-conference tour of the Archives will be scheduled. The Society's digital collection opened in 2017 and is one of the most visited sites on the SWOSU digital archive.



Also found in downtown Weatherford is a 30-foot spaceman at the corner of Main Street and Broadway Avenue. Local high schoolers convinced city leaders to nickname the statue “Major Tom,” although Weatherford’s favorite astronaut, Thomas P. Stafford, earned the rank of general. Who knew Generation Z was acquainted with David Bowie?

This statue was added as a Route 66 attraction here in “Space City,” and is a warm tribute to Thomas P. Stafford, Weatherford native and NASA astronaut. A selfie stand is available to help you take a photo of yourself with the statue.

The famous “Earthrise” was painted on the spaceman’s visor by local artist Bobby Marsee of “Marsee's Fine Art & Custom Framing” at 104 E. College Ave.

Besides the Stafford Air and Space Museum (location of the conference meetings), Weatherford is home to the [Oklahoma Heartland Museum](#). Among many other attractions there, you can stand where Elvis Presley did on April 22, 1960, in the Porter House Diner!

Weatherford has two listings in the “offbeat places” to visit on the [Roadside America web site](#). Besides Major Tom, the Wind Turbine Blade Display in Weatherford’s Heritage Park made the list.

You can relax in the great outdoors (especially on a balmy Oklahoma mid-summer day!) at any of Weatherford’s many parks. <https://cityofweatherford.com/parks-rec/>

If you have a car, you may also want to visit Clinton, which is about 15 miles down the road. Two major features there are the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum [Oklahoma Route 66 Museum](#) and the Clinton Indoor Water Zoo [Clinton Indoor Water Zoo](#), which, despite the name, is for people!

Last and certainly not least, as you drive to Weatherford on I-40, be sure to watch for the mounds on the south side of the highway between the Hinton exit and Weatherford (roughly mile marker 93.5). These mounds were the inspiration for H.P. Lovecraft's novella "The Mound."

Should you decide to spend time in Oklahoma City, check out the [Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum/](#), the [First Americans Museum](#), and the [National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum](#).

NEW! T-shirt Orders

There will be Mythcon 54 commemorative t-shirts! They feature the alternate Mythcon 54 logo below, with the Route 66 emblem, and will be available in royal blue or navy. All sizes, unisex design. This is an advance sale, so order before the conference.



- Shirts can be ordered until Sunday, July 19 at 11:59pm CDT from [our printer at 66 Ink](#).
- Registrants can pick up their shirts at the event, at the conference registration table.
- Online attendees that would like a shirt: We will not be able to ship them in advance of the event, but if you order one, we will contact you individually afterwards to arrange for shipping. Additional charges will apply depending on the shipping location.

Dealers Room and Dealers' Tables

Full 8-foot tables or half-tables (shared with another vendor) are available in our Dealers room for \$50 or \$30. If you are interested in bringing your wares to sell, please contact Robert Williams by email at dealers@mythcon.org for more details.

You can also reserve a table online on the Mythopoeic Society website, <https://www.mythsoc.org/mythcon/mythcon-54.htm#dealers>. Tables are 8 feet long by 30 inches wide.

Vendors who will only be staffing their table are not required to purchase memberships, but any vendor who also wants to attend any of the conference activities must purchase a full conference membership.

NEW! Here is a quick rundown of the confirmed vendors that will be selling their wares for coin at Mythcon 54!

Apocryphile

- Books: fantasy, religious fiction, formerly out-of-print titles

Donald T. Williams

- Author with titles analyzing fantasy works from a critical Christian perspective, including *Answers from Aslan: The Enduring Apologetics of C.S. Lewis* and *An Encouraging Thought: The Christian Worldview in the Writings of J.R.R. Tolkien*

Furrowed Brow Books (www.furrowedbrowbooks.com)

- Furrowed Brow Books is a rare and used bookshop in St. Paul, Minnesota. We specialize in - among other things - J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and the Inklings. The shop is primarily online, but we also appear at several shows each year. For Mythcon, we will bring a mix of cool and collectible works by Tolkien and the Inklings, including books by artists and illustrators. We'll also bring some adjacent material, such as other sci-fi and fantasy. Our table will have a range of editions, including first printings and first editions (ask about the difference between those), and signed copies, and at many different prices, with affordable options for beginning collectors.

John Brice Odom

- Self-published titles including *Shoreless Seas & Stars Uncounted*, which collects stories found in *The Mythic Circle*, *Crimson Quill Quarterly*, and *Mystic Mind Magazine*

McFarland Publishing

- Independent publisher of academic and general-interest nonfiction books, including mythology, folklore, and literary studies on classic and genre fiction as well as fantasy

The Mythopoeic Society

- Mythopoeic Society publications and other merchandise

Masquerade

Mythcon 54 will have a masquerade as part of one of our Saturday evening entertainments. A Mythcon masquerade is a staged costume presentation that ranges from the sublime to the silly; its focus is fun and entertainment. Everyone is invited to participate; sign-up forms will be provided at the registration desk.

The Not Very Annual Mary Stolzenbach Memorial Clerihew Contest

Will there be a [clerihew](#) contest this year? What's a Mythcon without whimsical verse and possibly doubtful veracity? So, polish up your skills for our Not Very Annual Clerihew Contest, named in honor of the late Mary Stolzenbach, who used to sweep the awards regularly. Each attendee may submit one entry into each of three categories: Before Tolkien (pre-1892), During Tolkien (1892-1973), and After Tolkien (post-1973). A distinguished panel of judges, They Who Must Never Be Named, will evaluate each entry based on the HOC criteria of Humor, Originality, and Clerihewness. Winners in each category will be rewarded with the traditional prize of a jeroboam of Chateau de Porteur d'Anneau invisible champagne, and we'll all toast the memory of beloved clerihew enthusiast Mike Foster.

Mythcon 54 Registration

Mythcon 54 registration is open. All registration fees are in US dollars.

Current rates for Mythcon 54 are as follows. **Please note that the early-bird rate registration period has ended.** As of June 1, the rates are.

- Full Conference Registration (Mythsoc member*) \$120.00
- Full Conference Registration (non-member) \$135.00
- Full Conference Registration (student**) \$110.00
- Virtual Conference Registration (Mythsoc member) \$20.00
- Virtual Conference Registration (non-member) \$25.00

* **Note:** to register at the **member rate**, you must be a member-in-good-standing of the Mythopoeic Society, and you need to [log on to our members area](#) first.

Here is a 6-minute YouTube video explaining how Mythsoc members can log in to the new members area, and then proceed to the registration process for Mythcon 54.

[YOUTUBE DEMO](#)

And if you'd rather read the instructions (with sample screen shots), here's a text/graphics version:

[TEXT VERSION](#)

**Full-time students must present current, active student ID at check-in to confirm eligibility for the student rate.

To register for Mythcon 54, use [THIS LINK](#). Once again, please note that the rates in the video and text screen shots are the early bird rates.

NEW: Mythcon 54 Buddy System

Are you either new to the Mythcon experience and need someone to explain why “Sale of College Land” is listed on the schedule in the middle of the night, or a veteran Mythie who wants to make sure first-timers make it to Golfimbul? Then you should sign up for the Mythcon Buddy System, organized by Megan Abrahamson, who will pair veteran Mythies with first-timers so that they can learn all about Mythcon and the Mythopoeic Society’s rich history! Sign up at [this link](#) before Jul 17th.

Mythcon 54 Program Venue

Stafford Air & Space Museum 3000 Logan Rd, Weatherford, OK 73096

The [Stafford Air & Space Museum](#), named in honor of Weatherford native and astronaut Thomas P. Stafford, is considered one of the finest and most comprehensive air and space museums in the central United States and is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute.

Photographs of the museum: [Air and Space Museum Photos](#).

Weatherford is also the home of the Mythopoeic Society Archives at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU).



Conference Hotel: Lucille's Hotel, Weatherford

The official Mythcon 54 hotel is Lucille's Hotel in Weatherford. The hotel restaurant is a classic example of Route 66 lodging. (If you want to know the history of Lucille Hamons, the original owner who was known as Mother of the Mother Road, check out [the roadhouse history page](#). Mythcon attendees will receive a special rate of \$99.99* (+taxes and fees) per night, using the group code MYTHCON54. This rate is also available on the Thursday and Monday 'shoulder' nights. The contact information for the hotel is:

Lucille's Hotel, Restaurant, & Bar
3825 E Main St, Weatherford, Oklahoma, 73096
Phone 580-774-0400



To reserve a room at the conference rate, guests may either:

- Call the hotel at 580-774-0400 and reference the group code MYTHCON54, or
- Email the front desk at [frontdesk @ lucilleshotel.com](mailto:frontdesk@lucilleshotel.com) and include the group code MYTHCON54 in the reservation request.

Here is a link to the [Hotel's Web Site](#) for information purposes. Please do not use the website to reserve a room, or you will not receive the special conference rate; use one of the above procedures instead.



Transportation: Getting to Weatherford, OK – Not as Tough as Going to Mount Doom

Weatherford, OK is accessible only to those with wheels! As we approach the event, the organizing committee will provide resources to help coordinate rides between Oklahoma City and Weatherford, and also around Weatherford during Mythcon. If you are looking for a ride to/from Mythcon from Oklahoma City or elsewhere, or may be able to provide someone else with a ride, please utilize this [ridesharing spreadsheet](#) (**NEW!**). There are two separate sheets; "Seeking Ride" and "Offering Ride." Instructions for how to complete each of them are included at the link.

Plane: Don't be turned off by flying to an airport named for Oklahoma's most beloved native son, who died in a plane crash. After arriving at Will Rogers International Airport (recently upgraded from Will Rogers World Airport!), you will need ground transportation to Weatherford. Car rental and shuttle options at OKC airport can be found [here](#). We recommend coordinating shared rides with other Mythcon attendees.

Automobile: Oklahoma City (the nearest major metropolitan area) lies at the intersection of not one!-not two!-but three! major interstate highways: east-west I-40, north-south I-35, and northeast-to-southwest I-44. Once in Oklahoma City, take I-40 west to Weatherford at Exit 84. For local transportation between the conference hotel and venue, we strongly recommend that you either have a car of your own or coordinate carpooling with another attendee.

Train: Only if you want to catch a freight train!

Bus: Only the yellow kind that serves schools.

Taxi: Weatherford does have a taxi service, the one man-one vehicle operation of Dave's Taxi. Hailing a taxi in Weatherford requires using a phone (580-819-0228).

Public Safety Policy

Policies regarding any active public health concerns or outbreaks, (for instance masking or vaccination) will be tied to local recommendations at the time of the conference. Please check the conference webpage before you travel. The Mythopoeic Society accepts no responsibility for spread of COVID-19 or other contagious illnesses as part of travel to, from, or participation in Mythcon 54.

Volunteer Opportunities

In order to keep our registration fees low, the Mythopoeic Society relies on volunteers to support the operation of our events. If you would be interested in volunteering to assist with the registration table or the Mythopoeic Society's dealer table, please complete [this form](#) to indicate your expected availability. For more information on any of the below roles, please contact the conference chair (chair@mythcon.org) or Mythcon Steward (mythcon@mythsoc.org).

Organizing Committee

Art Show Coordinator: Mythcons sometimes include an art show, where members may bring unique or special pieces of art or other collectors items for display during the event. If you would be interested in coordinating an Art Show at Mythcon 54, please reach out. The coordinator would be expected to attend periodic online organizing committee meetings.

Non-Committee Volunteers

Registration: Covering shifts at the registration table, registering attendees as they arrive, answering questions from attendees.

Technical Moderators: Technical Moderators monitor the streaming setup for each of the programming tracks, to ensure that our online attendees have a smooth experience. They may also ask questions of presenters on behalf of the online attendees.

Mythopoeic Society Dealer Table: Because our Orders Steward position is currently vacant, we will need volunteer support at the Mythopoeic Society Dealer Table, to handle the sale of Mythopoeic Society books and other merchandise.

More information

If you have questions or ideas related to Mythcon 54, or wish to volunteer to help out, please email the appropriate committee member or the chair at the address below.

Mythcon 54 Committee

- Chair: Phillip Fitzsimmons (chair@mythcon.org)
- Papers Coordinator: Cami Agan. (papers@mythcon.org)
- Dealers Room Coordinator: Robert Williams (dealers@mythcon.org)
- Promotions: Phillip Fitzsimmons (chair@mythcon.org)
- Guests of Honor Liaison: Diane Fitzsimmons
- On-Site Registrar: Victoria Gaydosik
- Hospitality: Gary Hunnewell
- Auctioneer: Bruce Leonard
- Committee Member at Large: Diane Fitzsimmons
- Buddy System Coordinator: Megan Abrahamson (mythprint@mythsoc.org)
- Mythopoeic Society Steward for Conferences: Tim Lenz (mythcon@mythsoc.org)

Mythcon 54 is brought to you with the generous support of the City of Weatherford, OK Hotel/Motel Tax Advisory Committee, Stafford Air and Space Museum, SWOSU General Thomas P. Stafford Archives, and Western Plains Library Systems

