



Quarterly Bulletin

July – September 2007

Welcome to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) International Programs Quarterly Bulletin, issued by the NPS Office of International Affairs (OIA). Additional information on NPS international programs and activities can be found at the NPS OIA webpage: <http://www.nps.gov/oia>

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Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Waterton Lakes, Alberta, Canada, was the host for a workshop titled “**Parks, Peace and Partnerships**,” convened to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the world’s first international peace park, between **Waterton Lakes National Park** and **Glacier National Park** (Montana, USA). Themes during the workshop included global status and trends in transboundary protected areas and international peace parks; peace parks and conflict resolution; peace parks as vehicles for international cooperation; education in transboundary protected areas; the influence and role of international peace parks and other reserves on regional economies; governance and management of international peace parks and transboundary protected areas; legal mechanisms and arrangements for transboundary conservation; effective engagement of local communities and other stakeholders in transboundary protected areas; and the role of indigenous peoples in transboundary protected areas and international peace parks. For more information, contact Brace Hayden at brace_hayden@nps.gov or visit <http://www.nps.gov/archive/glac/pdf/wgg-web-2007.pdf>



Russian Historian Writes Cold War History at Minuteman Missile NHP

Minuteman Missile National Historic Park in South Dakota is offering visitors a Russian perspective on the Cold War thanks to the efforts of Egor Prokofiev who worked in the park this past summer as part of a Rotary Club-sponsored National Park Service International Volunteers-In-Parks (IVIP) program. Prokofiev, from Saratov, Russia, where he is studying journalism at Saratov State University, helped the park develop interpretive exhibit materials. He gave interpretive talks, translated interpretive brochures, and researched Russian sources for information concerning intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). The national park was established by Congress in 1999 to tell the story of the Minuteman ICBM system, including the development of the system, the personnel who served at the 1,000 sites throughout the upper Great Plains, and the impact of the system on the communities nearby. The property was transferred from the United States Air Force to the National Park Service in September 2002. For more information on the park, visit <http://www.nps.gov/mimi>



ICOMOS Fellow assists National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

The National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) partnered with the US chapter of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) to host an international fellow, Satish Pandey, for a ten-week fellowship during summer 2007. Pandey, an Indian national and graduate student at Oxford University, studied the role of salts in stone deterioration on buildings. During his time at NCPTT, he continued a project to determine pollution uptake on limestone treated with stone protectants. For more information, contact Jeff Guin, at jeff_guin@nps.gov



Satish Pandey, at work at NCPTT

Sister Park Relationships – New & Established

Increasingly recognized as efficient, low-cost frameworks for sharing lessons learned and best practices on parks management, sister park relationships provide higher visibility and credibility to National Park Service partner parks abroad, as well as serving as a valuable tool in U.S. foreign diplomacy. Two new sister park relationships were established between July and September 2007.

In late August, the superintendents of **Grand Canyon National Park** and China's **Yuntaishan World Geopark** signed a sister park arrangement in a ceremony in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. Both parks preserve extraordinary geologic, cultural and natural resources that are important locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Yuntaishan is 70 kilometers from the capital of Henan province, Zhengzhou. The parks will seek to enrich the experience and training of personnel in both parks through international cooperation. Areas of cooperation will potentially include sharing information in geological research; sharing technical assistance and experiences in environmental education and interpretation; developing models and opportunities for sustainable tourism; and the development of a national level interpretation training program based on the National Park Service's Interpretive Development Program. For more information, contact Jacob Fillion, at Jacob_fillion@nps.gov

Grand Canyon & Yuntaishan staff at the Beijing signing ceremony, August 2007



Rocky Mountain National Park established a multi-park sister park relationship with contiguous transboundary Polish and Slovakian protected areas, both known as **Tatras National Park**. The name 'Tatra' derives from an ancient Slavic root meaning 'rocky.' This plus much more are commonly shared among the three parks. The two Tatras have shared a sister park relationship for some time, as the border between Slovakia and Poland unites the parks. The State Department supports this sister park relationship, which was begun through study tours sponsored by the U.S. embassies in Slovakia and Poland. All three parks share close proximity to regional population centers. The outstanding natural resources of all three parks face many common threats, including mountain pine beetle, air and water quality impacts, ecosystem management, and illegal human activities. Other shared park management issues include fee management, shuttle bus systems, concessions, front-country and backcountry management, volunteer programs, partnerships, and environmental education. For more information, contact Vaughn Baker, at Vaughn_baker@nps.gov

Rocky Mountain & Tatras National Park staff meet at the Polish-Slovakian border



In August 2007, as part of the Sister Park partnership between **Big Cypress National Preserve** and Guatemala's **Laguna del Tigre National Park**, wildland fire specialists from Big Cypress and **Everglades National Park** traveled to Guatemala to teach the S-190, "Introduction to Fire Behavior," fire management course, to several divisions within CONAP (Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas, Guatemala's National Park Service). The team also assessed local fuels, determined needs for a prescribed fire program and assistance in fire planning, both suppression and prescribed. For more information, contact Pedro Ramos, at pedro_ramos@nps.gov.



Laguna del Tigre staff receive instruction in how to use a kaestrel

NPS Search & Rescue Team Assists Peace Corps in Bolivia

This past September, a team of NPS personnel provided assistance to the Peace Corps' Office of the Inspector General with an organized search effort to locate the remains of volunteer Walter Poirier, who went missing in the Zongo river valley of Bolivia in 2001. NPS rangers, along with a GIS specialist, who planned the search efforts, worked with a Peace Corps special agent, State Department special agents, two FBI special agents and Bolivian National Police investigators. Six additional NPS search personnel assisted with the efforts in Bolivia, as well as members of BERSA (Brigada de Rescate y Salvamiento), the Bolivia National Police Rescue Team. Following six days of extensive searching in "high probability" search segments, no associated clues were located. Searchers believe that Poirier's remains are either buried under debris flows or have been washed out of the search area. Although unsuccessful in locating the remains of their son, this organized joint-agency search effort may provide the family with a better understanding of what happened to their son and a greater sense of closure in dealing with their loss. For more information, contact Ken Phillips, at ken_phillips@nps.gov or see <http://home.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Announcements&id=5855>

377,000 western sandpipers on the Laguna Madre, adjacent to the park boundary, 2006.

Padre Island National Seashore Designated a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site of International Importance

The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) Hemispheric Council designated **Padre Island National Seashore** (PAIS) as a member of the existing binational Laguna Madre Site of International Importance to Shorebirds. WHSRN is a world-wide organization partnering with the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and encompasses 66 sites in 9 countries. PAIS is the first National Park Service unit to join WHSRN. The existing binational Laguna Madre Site also includes Laguna Atascosa NWR, managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, portions of South Padre Island managed by The Nature Conservancy, and portions of the Laguna Madre de Tamaulipas in Mexico, managed by Pro Natura. To become a WHSRN site of International Importance, a site must contain over 100,000 shorebirds annually or at least 10% of a shorebird population. Among the impressive shorebird counts that led to the designation are those of 588 Piping Plovers, representing roughly 10% of the world's population, and 373,000 Western Sandpipers, seen just outside the park's boundary. More information about WHSRN can be found at <http://www.whsrn.org>. For more details, contact Darrell Echols, at Darrell_echols@nps.gov or Michelle Havens, at michelle_havens@nps.gov.



Beringia Days Conference

Beringia Days is an annual gathering of NPS staff, Alaska and Russian Natives, governmental and corporation officials, as well as researchers, local school groups and university Russian language students, who report on the activities that take place in northwest Alaska and eastern Chukotka, Russia. Beringia Days events are funded by the National Park Service's International Shared Beringian Heritage Program and the government of Chukotka. This year there were two very full days with over thirty presentations. The first Beringia Days conference was held in Anchorage, AK in 1997 and since 2003 it alternates between Alaska and Chukotka. This year's event was held in late September in Chukotka. In October 2008, Fairbanks, Alaska will host a combined Beringia Days and an International Polar Year Park Science Symposium for our National Park units in northern and western Alaska. The NPS Alaska Region annually funds 10-15 projects to support research and community projects throughout the Beringian region, frequently with a Russian component in the project. For more information, see our website at <http://www.nps.gov/akso/beringia> or contact Bruce Greenwood, at bruce_greenwood@nps.gov



Digital Video Lecture on Native Repatriation Legislation

In July, Dr. Timothy McKeown of the NPS's National NAGPRA Program presented a lecture via a televideo connection to the University of Queensland, Australia. The 90-minute presentation, titled *Federal Repatriation Legislation in the United States*, reviewed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and repatriation provisions of the National Museum of the American Indian Act. The presentation was part of a five day professional development program on *Museum and Community Engagement*, organized by Dr. Amareswar Galla and Dr. Kim Selling of the Museum Studies Program, and featured speakers from throughout Australia as well as televideo presentations from the Netherlands and the United States. For more information, contact Tim McKeown, at tim_mckeown@nps.gov.

Parks Canada & NPS Social Science Cooperation

Parks Canada and the National Park Service established a cross-border working group to address issues of mutual interest, share expertise and support social science research efforts in both countries. Undertaken between the Chief Social Scientists and social sciences branches of Parks Canada and the NPS, this includes a commitment to exchange information and ideas, hold an annual meeting, develop annual cooperative plans on specific projects, and promote exchange visits between agency social scientists, related staff, and university researchers. Prospects for applied social science research will be enhanced, and one of the benefits to the new alliance will be increased contact among social scientists working on park and historic site management and policy issues. Since the need to understand current and future visitors is critical, the two agencies plan to address concerns such as measuring visitor trends, analyzing social trends, visitor experience, interpretation, and economic valuation. Both agencies' social science programs have a mandate to conduct and promote state-of-the-art social science related to their respective missions, and to deliver usable knowledge to managers at multiple levels of their respective agencies and the public. For more information, contact NPS Chief Social Scientist Dr. James Gramann, at jgramann@tamu.edu.



Danish Volunteers assist Virgin Islands National Park

Virgin Islands National Park, in partnership with the University of Copenhagen's Saxo Institute, the NPS International Volunteer in the Parks program, and the non-profit Friends of the Park, selected two Danish interns to conduct archival research at the Danish National Archive, followed by a month of field investigations at the park. Working with project supervisors, the students' research addressed geographic boundaries as they applied to the first wave of European settlers within the park. While in the field it became increasingly clear the way St. John's topography and remoteness influenced social interaction and material distribution across the landscape. However, the vast majority of the Virgin Island's history is written in gothic Danish or Dutch, with the majority of these records housed in Denmark. The park hopes to continue to work with Danish researchers to further its historical understanding of the park and the people of the Virgin Islands. For more information, visit <http://friendsvinparch.blogspot.com/> or contact park archeologist Ken Wild at ken_wild@nps.gov.



Latin American Biologists Assist Park Flight at Point Reyes/Golden Gate

Roselvy Juárez Jovel from El Salvador and Adrián Gutiérrez Pérez from Mexico participated in international internships for the NPS Park Flight Migratory Bird Program at **Point Reyes National Seashore** and **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**, in cooperation with project partner PRBO Conservation Science (Point Reyes Bird Observatory). Based at the Palomarin Field Station, Juárez assisted with standardized mist-netting, banding, and interpreting these operations to the public. Gutierrez assisted with the migratory bird education and outreach program to the public, children, and teachers, including local Latino communities, and assisted with banding demonstrations. Juárez has collaborated on migratory and resident bird monitoring and research in Salvadoran national parks with Park Flight partner SalvaNATURA. Gutierrez is a grade school teacher from Jalisco, Mexico, where he has studied endangered bird species and also worked in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve and Chamela-Cuixmala Biosphere Reserve. For more information, contact Carol Beidleman at 970-586-3776.



