



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



July 2008, Archeology E-Gram

New “Visit Archeology” Web Feature

The NPS Archeology Program has launched new “Visit Archeology” web pages featuring Ohio. There are lists of sites and museums to visit in northern Ohio, southern Ohio, and along the I-70 corridor, and a timeline that takes the visitor from the Paleoindian through the Industrial eras. Be sure to explore the map! To visit the web pages go to www.nps.gov/archeology/visit/ohio/index.htm or via the mound thumbnail on the “Visit Archeology” main page at www.nps.gov/archeology/visit/index.htm.

Archeology on NPR

National Public Radio featured archeology in two programs aired during July. “Summer Getaways: National Park Service” visited Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park and talked to rangers about looting at Civil War battlefields. The interview brought the continuing threat of looting of archeological sites to listeners’ attention. In a recent incident, looters dug 467 holes in earthworks at the park. Items discovered during looting are often sold on the Internet or at collectors’ shows. On NPS lands, theft of cultural and natural resources, such as protected cacti, ginseng, petroglyphs, petrified wood, and artifacts, from national parks has more than doubled in the last six years, robbing all Americans. “Summer Getaways: National Park Service” covers parks all over the country in a dozen pieces, ranging from a visit to the smallest unit in the system (Thaddeus Kosciuszko NM in Philadelphia) to a story of ‘lost love’ at White Sands NM to a composer whose theme is Zion NP. To hear individual stories, go to www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91890528

NPR host Diane Rehm interviewed Julia King, Associate Professor of Anthropology, St. Mary’s College; Philip Levy, Associate Professor of History, University of South Florida; and David Muraca, Director of Archaeology, George Washington Foundation, about recent archeological investigations that identified George Washington’s boyhood home at Ferry Farm, near Fredericksburg, Virginia. Although the location of the Washington farm was never in question, five residences were on the property. After excavations and analysis of almost half a million artifacts, Muraca and colleagues identified the house that dates to the time of Washington’s boyhood and is most likely his residence. The research project provides information about Washington’s family and about social relations in general during the slave-holding era in U.S. history. These excavations, as well as recent excavation at the President’s House site in Independence NHP in Philadelphia, where Washington lived during his terms as President, show that masters and enslaved often lived and worked side by side, and that slave-holding households may have had other servants who were not slaves. To hear the interview, go to wamu.org/programs/dr/08/07/22.php#21821.

CESU Network Available for Cultural Resources Projects

The Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit (CESU) national network provides a way for Federal agencies, universities, and NGOs to partner on projects. Many natural resource projects have been successfully accomplished through the CESU network, and there are increasing numbers of cultural resource projects, including archeological field schools, ethnographic studies, administrative histories, and preservation projects, conducted through the CESU network. CESU is not a substitute for Federal contracting, however, as the partners must have substantial involvement in the project. There are 17 units in the network. Many Federal agencies are members of more than one unit, and any member can create partnerships with any other. To learn more about the CESU national network, go to www.cesu.psu.edu/.

NPS Training for Afghan Cultural Resources Managers in Department of State Journal

An article in the July issue of *eJournal USA* discussed the joint NPS-Department of State effort to provide training in cultural resources management for Afghan specialists during an eight week visit to U.S. national parks. Archeologists in the NPS Archeology Program, Washington Office, and officers in the Cultural Heritage Center organized training for three Afghan cultural heritage officials in 2007 to learn how the NPS carries out archeological resources preservation, management, and public education. The article also reviews NPS efforts to preserve park archeological resources, and make them accessible to the public.

eJournal USA is a monthly electronic journal sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Information Programs. Each volume examines major issues facing the United States and the international community, as well as U.S. society, values, thoughts, and institutions. The July volume is devoted to the U.S. National Park System.

To read the online *eJournal USA*, go to www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0708.pdf#popup
For more information about the Afghan training, go to the April 2007 Archeology E-Gram.

NPS Announces Battlefield Preservation Grants for 2008

The NPS announced the award of 32 grants totaling \$1,367,144 to preserve and protect America's significant battlefield lands. Awards were given to projects in 24 states or territories entailing archeology, mapping, cultural resource survey work, documentation, planning, education, and interpretation. Through an increase in funding, the 2008 grant program is able to support a dozen more projects than in 2007.

Winning projects include underwater archeology at the Revolutionary War Battle of Valcour Island, Vermont; documentation of the Revolutionary War battlefield of Snow's Island, South Carolina; an archeological assessment of the War of 1812 River Raisin Battlefield, Michigan; a survey of Montana's Indian battlefields; two mapping projects that will determine precise boundaries for more than 40 Civil War battlefields in 13 states; a preservation plan for the Tebbs Bend Civil War Battlefield, Kentucky; mapping the World War II Battle of Midway in the South Pacific; and a cultural landscape survey of the World War II Kiska Battlefield, Alaska.

The grants are administered by the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program, which promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. More information about the American Battlefield Protection Program is available at www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp.

SVBF Preserves Battlefield Land in Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) announced that it has preserved more than 189 acres of battleground where Confederates assaulted Federal troops in the Battle of Cedar Creek in 1864. As the site of the encampments and line of battle for the Union 8th Army Corps, the newly protected property contains archeological remains reflecting some of the most dramatic fighting of the battle.

The parcel lies in Warren County, Virginia, in Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP and links previously protected areas within the park boundary. In the northern part of the park the NPS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation own and manage 696 acres. To the southeast, the SVBF has already protected more than 303 acres. The new acquisition begins to consolidate disparate areas of the park.

Created by Congress in 1996, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District encompasses Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties in Virginia

and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Winchester. The District's legislation authorizes Federal funding for the protection of ten Civil War battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley and for the coordination of interpretation and promotion of the valley's Civil War history.

To learn more about Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, go to www.nps.gov/cebe.

New World Heritage Sites Inscribed

The World Heritage Committee, meeting for its 32nd session in Québec, Canada, on 2 - 10 July 2008, inscribed twenty-seven new sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Of the 19 cultural and 8 natural sites inscribed, there are several archeological properties, including the following:

Al-Hijr (Madâin Sâlih) is the first World Heritage property to be inscribed in Saudi Arabia. It features well-preserved monumental tombs with decorated facades dating from the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD.

Chief Roi Mata's Domain is the first site to be inscribed in Vanuatu. The complex of early 17th-century sites reflect the convergence between oral tradition and archeology and bears witness to the persistence of the last paramount chief's social reforms and conflict resolution, still relevant to the people of the region.

Kuk Early Agricultural Site is in the southern highlands of Papua New Guinea. Archeology reveals that the landscape is the result of wetland reclamation worked almost continuously for 7,000 and possibly for 10,000 years. Well-preserved archeological remains demonstrate the technological leap which transformed plant exploitation to agriculture around 6,500 years ago.

The Committee also approved extensions for four sites, including Altamira Cave. Seventeen decorated Paleolithic caves were inscribed as an extension to the Altamira Cave, inscribed in 1985. The property will now appear on the List as *Cave of Altamira* and *Paleolithic Cave Art of Northern Spain*.

For the full list and descriptions go to <http://whc.unesco.org/en/newproperties/>.

Projects in Parks: Projects in Parks is taking a break and will be back in August.

Archeology E-Gram, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the National Park Service and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the Archeology Program web site.

Projects in Parks is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in national parks. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* webpage on InsideNPS. The full reports are available on the *Projects in Parks* web page inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?v=3&prg=279&id=3670 on InsideNPS or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* on the on the *News and Links* page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the Archeology Program web site.

Contact: dca@nps.gov to contribute news items, stories for "Projects in Parks," and to subscribe.