



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## August 2010 Archeology E-Gram

### NPS “Archeology for Kids” Webpage Chosen as Site of the Month on Kids.gov

The NPS Archeology Program “Archeology for Kids” webpage has been chosen as the August Site of the Month by Kids.gov. The webpage has lots of information and pictures about archeological field and lab work. The text and activities target grade school students and their teachers.

Kids.gov is the official kids' portal for the U.S. government. It links to over 2,000 web pages, hosted by government agencies, schools, and educational organizations, all geared to the learning level and interest of kids. Kids.gov is organized into three audiences: Grades K-5, grades 6-8, and educators. While it is the mission to link primarily to government sites written for kids, many of the sites selected also provide lesson plans and classroom activities for teachers.

“Archeology for Kids” joins other web pages such as “Climate Kids,” “Census for Kids,” NPS “Web Rangers,” and “NASA Kids Club” in the Kids.gov Site of the Month Archive at <http://kids.gov/internal/archive.shtml>

### New NPS Archeology Resource Manual Module

The NPS Archeology Program has launched a new module on Archeology Outreach in the NPS Archeology Guide. The module provides a reference guide, or handbook, to best practices, policies, and tools. The resources in Archeology Outreach aim to assist NPS staff in outreach efforts to communicate the public benefits of archeology to a broad constituency. Audiences for the module include NPS archeologists, park superintendents, managers, interpreters, rangers, educators, and all others charged with the preservation, protection, and interpretation of archeological resources. Access the module at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/npsGuide/outreach/index.htm>.

### Independence NHP Archeology Lab Designated Preserve America Steward

Michelle Obama has designated the Living History Center Archeology Laboratory at Independence NHP a Preserve America Steward, honoring their volunteer programs. Preserve America Stewards is a designation program that recognizes programs that have demonstrated a successful use of volunteer time and commitment in order to help care for our historic heritage.

The Archeology Laboratory at Independence NHP developed through a partnership between the NPS and the National Constitution Center (NCC), following one of the largest archeological projects in the history of the Service. Between 2000 and 2003 NPS archeologists directed excavations on Independence Mall. They recovered hundreds of archeological features and more than 1 million artifacts, dating from several millennia B.C. to the mid-nineteenth century. The intense local interest in the project fueled volunteer efforts. As analysis progresses, the emerging stories highlight yet untold aspects of local and national history, including those related to the formative years of the free African American community in Philadelphia.

The volunteer program was launched under the direction of the three professional NPS archeologists in 2007. Calculated at the current rate for NPS volunteer contributions, the LAB volunteer program is estimated to have saved the NPS more than \$400,000, with total project savings expected to exceed \$1 million by the time that the project is completed.

For more information about Independence NP and the LAB, go to [www.nps.gov/inde/](http://www.nps.gov/inde/)

### **Cultural Resource Survey Conducted At International Site in Maine**

Resource managers from Acadia NP, the Resource Information Services Division, and the Submerged Resources Center recently conducted a survey of Saint Croix Island International Historic Site (IHS) as part of a project to assess the extent of cultural resources within the park and possible impacts to these resources from a planned nearby facility.

Saint Croix Island IHS recognizes one of the first European settlements in North America. A group of French colonists that included Pierre De Gua, the Sieur de Mons and Samuel Champlain, along with 77 other men, established a settlement on the island in 1604. Upon their arrival, the French cleared the island, planted crops; dug a well; and built houses, public buildings, fortifications, and gun emplacements. On the mainland across from the island, the French explorers cleared land and planted gardens. Champlain created several maps documenting the island and settlement.

The French suffered a difficult winter in 1604-1605 on the island with bitter cold, deep snow, and a scarcity of food and firewood. Half of the men died and were buried on the southern portion of the island. In the spring, the survivors abandoned the settlement for a more favorable location in present day Nova Scotia. The year spent on the island, however, provided valuable lessons about the local environment and interacting with the indigenous people, with whom the French had an amicable relationship.

Nineteenth- and twentieth-century uses of the island included farming, fishing, quarrying, smuggling during wartime, and possibly even a public house of low repute. In 1856, the U.S. government purchased the northern portion of the island and built a lighthouse, which was occupied and operated until 1957. The remaining buildings on the island burned in 1976.

Information from archeological excavations and survey will be used to assess impacts to the island and cultural resources on the island from naturally occurring erosion, climate change, and any additional erosion that may be caused by the proposed facility upriver from the park. A geodetic survey will also be used as a foundation for future surveying and documentation of submerged resources associated with the island and mainland, reports NPS archeologist Sammi Seeb. The next phase of the project will involve side scan sonar surveys surrounding the island and diver inspections of any cultural resources.

For more information about the French settlement at Saint Croix, read “The French Along the Northeast Coast – 1604-1607,” August 2009 Archeology E-Gram Project in Parks at [www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/champlain.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/champlain.htm) and a Visit Archeology guide to Champlain’s expeditions at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/visit/Champlain/about.htm> .

### **NPS Crews Work Together To Repair Historic Site in Hawaii**

Pu‘uhonua o Honaunau NHP, on the island of Hawai‘i, repaired damage to the historic Alahaka Ramp resulting from two major earthquakes in 2006. The Alahaka Ramp, likely constructed sometime in the mid-1800s, is located on the 1871 Trail, a historic trail that traverses the entire length of the park.

The effort involved masons, archeologists, and technical experts from four Hawaiian national parks, reported NPS archeologist Sara Dolan. Masons from Pu‘uhonua o Honaunau NHP, Kaloko-Honokohau NHP, and Pu‘ukohola Heiau NHS repaired a damaged portion of the outer face and stabilized the ramp buttress and trail tread. The rugged and remote coastline where the Ramp is located posed a logistical and safety challenge for NPS crews. Using helicopter managers and technical rope experts from Hawai‘i Volcanoes NP, project leaders flew all the necessary materials and equipment to the work site. Technical rope experts employed

strategic fall safety methods to keep NPS crews protected while they worked on the cliffside along the rugged coastline.

For more information about the Alahaka Ramp or the park, visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/puho](http://www.nps.gov/puho).

### **Slave Quarters Discovered at Monocacy National Battlefield**

NPS archeologists have uncovered the site of the largest known slave habitation site in the mid-Atlantic region at Monocacy NB near Frederick, Maryland. The remains of several dwelling houses have been uncovered, as well as artifacts associated with enslaved occupations of the site from 1794 until 1827. Surface penetrating radar was used to locate two additional house sites, bringing the total to at least six individual structures.

The site is part of the L'Hermitage plantation, established in 1794 by the Vincendières, a family of French planters who came to Maryland from Haiti. By 1800, L'Hermitage was home to 90 enslaved laborers, approximately ten times the number of slaves that would be expected for the size of the plantation, 748 acres. This was the second largest slave population in Frederick County at the time and among the largest in Maryland. There are some indications that the Vincendières tried to rent the slaves to other farms.

The plantation house for the L'Hermitage still exists, and is known by the name of subsequent owners, the Bests. The Best farmhouse provides orientation for locating the quarters of enslaved persons. Historical documents indicate that their homes were located between the plantation house and the public road. The stone foundations of four cabins have been unearthed. Associated artifacts, such as buttons, beads, and pieces of pottery, provide insight into the lives of the enslaved on this plantation. Information from the surface penetrating radar survey will also help focus the excavations, which are expected to continue until October.

Funding for the project has been provided by the NPS Cultural Resource Preservation Program, Monocacy National Battlefield, and the Secretary of the Interior's Youth Intake Program. Undergraduate and graduate students from the University of Maryland, American University, Howard University, and Hood College are assisting with this project.

For more information about Monocacy NB and the L'Hermitage, go to [www.nps.gov/ncr/mono/](http://www.nps.gov/ncr/mono/).

### **Looter Caught at Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP**

When park rangers caught Eric George Blasch inside the Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP, he was covered in mud and carrying tools and a flashlight. He told them he had gotten lost hiking, but when police found he was in possession of war artifacts, Blasch came clean and admitted he had been treasure hunting.

Blasch pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court, admitting to digging 15 holes in the park and stealing 3 Minie balls, Civil War-war era bullets. He was indicted in 2009, but the charges stem from a February 2005 incident. The defendant was charged with knowingly excavating, removing, damaging and otherwise altering and defacing archaeological resources located on public lands without having a permit to do so.

Blasch will not be ordered to pay restitution, but he could face up to two years in prison and 94 days public service. He will be sentenced on Oct. 8, 2010.

### **Chimney Rock National Monument Act Bill in Senate**

The passage of Bill S.3303 will designate the Chimney Rock Archaeological Area in the San Juan NF as a national monument. Such a designation would enable the USFS to provide the level of protection, staffing, and financial resources that the site deserves. Specifically, the bill would authorize the Department of

Agriculture, in consultation with Indian tribes and other stakeholders, to develop a management plan for the monument, construction of a visitor's center and curatorial facilities, and allow the Department to include public lands adjacent to the park in the monument if those lands contained significant archeological resources. A subcommittee hearing on the bill was held on May 19. SAA submitted testimony in support of the legislation. On July 21, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved the legislation, sending it to the full Senate. A companion measure, H.R. 5223, is pending before the Natural Resources Committee.

### **Army Corps of Engineers Veterans Curation Program Funding Proposal in House**

Bill H.R. 5282 would provide a total of \$35 million over the next five years for the Army Corps of Engineers to continue its Veterans Curation Program, under which veterans, some of them disabled, assist ACOE personnel in cleaning, sorting, electronically documenting, cataloguing, and preserving archeological and historic artifacts managed by the ACOE. The program was originally started in 2009 with funding from the stimulus package. The Society of American Archaeology sent a letter in support of passage of the bill. On July 29, the House Transportation Committee approved the measure, sending it to the full House for consideration.

### **National Park Foundation Offers Impact Grants**

Do you need a small amount of funding to get a partnership for an archeological project going or to finish a project? The National Park Foundation has announced that applications are now being accepted for its 2010 Impact Grants. The deadline is October 1, 2010.

The foundation recognizes that sometimes the smallest grants can make the largest differences. The Impact Grants, with awards of \$10,000 or less, are designed to help parks that need small amounts of additional funding to strengthen the efforts of local partnerships or turn underfunded and innovative ideas into successful projects.

The National Park Foundation is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications from ALL National Park System units, affiliated areas, regional, service and program offices, National Heritage Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Landmarks and National Trails to participate in all National Park Foundation grant programs. Although applications must be submitted by a NPS staff person, successful parks may direct a grant to a partner organization for a collaborative project.

### **National Register/National Historic Landmark Workshop for Archeologists**

The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office and the NPS are sponsoring a two-day workshop on the National Register and National Historic Landmarks programs, to be held in Virginia City, Nevada, on September 28-29, 2010. The target audience is staff of state historic preservation offices, federal historic preservation offices, tribal historic preservation offices, and NPS regional offices. Workshop sessions will be held at the Comstock History Center. Archeology topics are intended to address the interface of archeology with other resources.

The following topics will be addressed in workshop sessions:

#### Tuesday, September 28

Nominations for Archeological Sites: Common Dilemmas

Nominations for Buildings, Structures, Districts, and Objects: Common Dilemmas

Using the "Other" Criteria for Archeology Nominations (A, B, and C)

Historic Archeology: Promoting its Use in Nominations for Other Resources

Nominations for Historic Landscapes

Wednesday, September 29

The National Historic Landmarks Program

Nominating Archeological Sites as National Historic Landmarks

Introduction to Traditional Cultural Places: The NR Bulletin and TCP Nominations

Cape Wind and the Implications for TCPs

Archeology and TCPs

TCPs: Challenging Issues for Nominations

Contact: Barbara Wyatt, 202-354-2252

### **NPS to Offer Archeology Interpretation Workshop**

Fort Sumter NM and Charles Pinckney NHS, Mt. Pleasant, SC, will offer "Effective Interpretation of Archeological and Cultural Heritage Resources" October 17-22, 2010. This 5-day workshop will enhance interdisciplinary communication skills for using a team approach to develop and produce effective public interpretation and education programs and products. Interpreters and educators will gain knowledge of archeological and cultural heritage for developing presentations and media about cultural heritage resources. Cultural resource specialists and archeologists will gain knowledge and skills in interpretation for developing interpretive presentations and media about cultural resources. Each group will gain knowledge and skills to aid in joint development of effective interpretation of cultural heritage. Target audience: interpreters, education specialists, cultural resource specialists, archeologists, museum specialists, and resource managers. Federal agency participants should be GS-5 (or equivalent) and above. The class is open to limited outside participation: grade level experience or equivalent participants are invited to submit nominations to attend this training. The tuition is \$250. The nomination deadline is September 20, 2010.

For further information, nomination forms, and agenda updates, see class web page at [www.nps.gov/history/seac/course-of-study/FOSU-CHPI\\_2010/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/seac/course-of-study/FOSU-CHPI_2010/index.htm).

Coordinators: John Jameson at (850) 580-3011 ext. 243, or cell: 850-322-5636; or Dawn Davis at (843) 883-3123 x23.

### **NPS Offers Training in Recording Oral Histories**

Yosemite NP, California will offer "Effective Oral History: Interviews, project management and practical applications" on October 18-22, 2010. This course provides hands-on learning about oral history practice led by a team of experienced NPS oral historians. The instructor team includes historians, ethnographer, archivists, and solicitor.

Topics include:

- Oral history project planning
- Legal and ethical issues
- Recording technologies (audio and video)
- Oral history and ethnography
- Interview preparation
- Interviewing
- Processing interviews (indexing and transcribing)
- Preserving, archiving, and managing oral history interviews
- Using oral history in interpretive programs, exhibits, Web sites, and publications

The goal of this course is to apply oral history theory and principles. Much of the classroom time will be spent working hands-on in small groups, as participants practice all phases of an oral history project. Each session will include a brief overview of a topic; the remainder of the time will be spent applying the overview to particular aspects of oral history projects. Participants will also have the opportunity to conduct and critique an interview on-site. Instructors will share case studies based on NPS oral history projects they have designed and completed. Please register by September 3, 2010.

Contact: Lu Ann Jones, Park History Program, WASO, (202) 354-2219

### **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation publishes Guide on Section 106**

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has released a new edition of the Citizen's Guide to Section 106. It is an excellent resource for citizens as they figure out their historic preservation plans. Familiarity with the guide will facilitate compliance as Federal agencies and citizens work towards common goals in preservation planning and NHPA compliance.

To download a copy, go to <http://www.achp.gov/pubs.html>

### **Projects in Parks: Tree Ring Dating at Mesa Verde National Park**

By Stephen Nash

Tree-ring dating, or dendrochronology, has been an integral part of archeological research at Mesa Verde National Park (NP) since 1923, when members of the National Geographic Society's First Beam Expedition collected samples from Cliff Palace, Spruce Tree House, and other sites (Douglass 1929, 1942; Nash 1999; Nichols 1963; Smiley 1947). The full dendrochronological potential of the park, however, has not yet been tapped. Dendrochronological research on archeological and living wood in the park holds the potential to more accurately date building construction phases and provide insights into climate changes and human adaptation to these changes.

To read the full story, go to [www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/MEVEtreeRings.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/MEVEtreeRings.htm)

*Projects in Parks* is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in national parks. The full reports are available on the *Research in the Parks* web page [www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.htm) or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram*. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* web page on InsideNPS.

*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 NPS 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](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm) on the NPS Archeology Program web site.

**Contact:** [dca@nps.gov](mailto:dca@nps.gov) to contribute news items, stories for *Projects in Parks*, submit citations and a brief abstract for your peer-reviewed publications, and to subscribe.