



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## August 2014 Archeology E-Gram

### **Jennifer Leasor Joins the Midwest Archeological Center as Museum Curator**

The NPS Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) in Lincoln, Nebraska is pleased to welcome Jenny Leasor as the new Museum Curator. Leasor will provide curatorial assistance to over 70 park units, develop procedures and protocols for collections management responsibilities, and manage MWAC's artifact and archive repository.

Leasor is currently the Museum Curator at Pipe Spring NM in Fredonia, Arizona, and has developed the park's museum program, implemented policies and procedures necessary to support collections management functions, established new partnerships, and helped institute youth internship programs. Prior to Pipe Spring NM, she worked in the museum program at the South Florida Collections Management Center at Everglades NP, and she worked at Harpers Ferry Center in the Museum and Conservation Services Division. During her tenure there, she served as a project lead for the WASO Service-wide NPS Film Preservation ("Cold Storage") Project.



Prior to the NPS, Leasor held positions at several state museums and other institutions that provided her with experience in preservation and management of museum collections. She is an accomplished technical writer and has authored multiple NPS publications and presentations related to integrated pest management, job safety, records management, and other museum-related topics. Leasor also has been active in planning and coordinating resource management projects; training courses; and special projects with NPS partners, tribal partners, and CESU universities.

Leasor holds a BA in English from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, and a MA in Museum Studies from the University of Florida. She is currently completing a second MA in English at Northern Arizona University.

*By Karin Roberts*

### **Successful Third Year of Badlands National Park's Tribal Youth Intern Program**

Eight high school students participated in the third year of Badlands NP's Tribal Youth Intern Program, which trains youth to become leaders in cultural resources, park management, and related fields. The Lakota interns are from communities on or near the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The interns presented educational programs; and provided community outreach at summer schools, museums, libraries, and special events. Interns also staffed the information desks at the Ben Reifel and White River visitor centers, and the visitor center at Minuteman Missile NHS.

At Badlands NP, they welcomed visitors to the fossil preparation Lab, trails, and overlooks throughout the park. Interns were involved in job-shadowing, training, and field work across a wide range of careers, including medicine, law enforcement, botany, paleontology, archeology, and wildlife management.

Badlands NP recently partnered with the Boys & Girls Club from Ellsworth Air Force Base. Club members worked alongside park interns and learned about wilderness preservation, bison management,

and dark night skies. Work projects included the development of education programs, litter removal operations, and sharing photos and stories through park social media. By creating opportunities for other under-represented youth to visit public lands and share their experiences, the interns actively engaged in issues of environmental justice for rural and at-risk communities.



Interns Trevor Bear Nose and Jayden Dull Knife participate in park training.

NPS and the Oglala Sioux Tribe completed a general management plan (GMP) in 2012 for Badland NP's South Unit. The GMP recommends establishing the South Unit as the nation's first tribal national park and recognizes that successful park management requires the fullest tribal participation and the development of strong partnerships with future leaders – like those chosen for the Tribal Youth Intern Program.

The Badlands Tribal Youth Intern Program is made possible through the support of partners including participating schools, Friends of the Badlands, Badlands Natural History Association, the National Park Foundation, and Boys & Girls Club of America.

For more information on the Tribal Youth Intern Program, see the Badlands NP's '[Summer Intern Adventures](#)' blog.

### **Southern Paiute Youth Camp Held at Cedar Breaks National Monument**

Sixteen middle school Southern Paiute students along with tribal elders participated in the second Kwiyamuntsi Youth Camp held on traditional homelands within Cedar Breaks NM and the Dixie NF. The four-day camp connected Native youth to their home land, encouraged them to continue their education, and exposed the students to land management careers.

Kwiyamuntsi (Kwee-YAH-moonts) Camp provided students with opportunities to experience ways their cultural heritage intersects with current science and resource management activities. Agency specialists teamed with tribal elders to blend traditional knowledge with public land management perspectives on hydrology, wildlife, plants, fire, astronomy, geology, orienteering and archeology. Campers were given hands-on instruction in identifying archeology sites, animal tracks and signs, fish and stream ecology measurements, wildfire management, constellation identification, and traditionally used edible plants.

Students gained a greater appreciation for their ancestors' stewardship of the environment, and how they used local resources for shelter, clothing, food, and to enrich their lives. For many camp participants, it was their first experience to taste traditional foods including buffalo, elk, quail, and rabbit. The students were skeptical at first to try and clean their teeth by chewing on charcoal and were amazed to find how shiny and smooth it made their teeth.

The youth also met with American Indian professionals working for land management agencies in southwest Utah, learning about career opportunities and the various paths that led them to Federal service. These Native leaders emphasized the importance of a college education and making wise choices as the students move into high school.

Collaborating in this effort were the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah; Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians; Moapa Band of Paiutes; Bryce Canyon NP; Bryce Canyon Natural History Association; BIA; BLM; Cedar Breaks NM; Dixie NF; and Southern Utah University. The camp was funded in part by a grant to Bryce Canyon NP and the Bryce Canyon Natural History Association from the National Park Foundation through the “America’s Best Idea” grant program.

*By Kathleen Gonder, Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Information*



Left to Right: Iszabella Lomeli (Shivwits Band) , Malanie Lee (Kaibab Band), Yevette Lopez (Kaibab Band), Terrell Tom (Shivwitz Band). Front: Maria Castillo (Kaibab Band). NPS photo.

### **Students Excavate Archeological Sites at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site**

The annual field school at Fort Vancouver NHS focused on Little Proulx and Parade Ground sites. Proulx lived at Fort Vancouver in the 1840s and was employed by the Hudson’s Bay Company. The students excavated the home site at the former workers village, west of the reconstructed fort stockade. The soil under the house’s earthen floor has yielded artifacts left behind by Proulx and his wife, a member of a Chinook tribe.

Not all of the findings represent the life of the French-Canadian fur trader; some were left by Captain Levi Holden — the first U.S. Army surgeon in the Oregon Territory. The Army arrived in 1849 in two groups. A force of mounted riflemen made the overland trek; the other contingent, including Holden, sailed around South America aboard the *USS Massachusetts*. The post they established was originally called Camp Vancouver, then Columbia Barracks. Holden was assigned Proulx’s home, which had been rented by the U.S. Army. Holden did not occupy the site for long – he left in 1850 for Fort Leavenworth

in Kansas and went on to serve with distinction in the Civil War. The building Proulx and Holden had occupied burned down in the 1850s or '60s.

The students found artifacts that document the change in tenants, including nails and glass fragments. Some nails were typically British hand-forged; others were manufactured nails that would have been used by American soldiers doing repairs. A fragment of glass was identified as part of an ink bottle. Most Hudson's Bay Company employees who lived in the workers village were illiterate, so the ink bottle likely belonged to Holden.

NPS archeologist Beth Horton directed work on the Fort Vancouver NHS Parade Ground just south of Officers Row. They excavated the spot where the American flag flew from 1854 to 1879, just across the street from the Grant House.

Students identified the location through maps and magnetic imaging, which can read changes below the soil surface. The excavators unearthed the ends of two intact logs about 4" in diameter that might have been used for the flagpole's below-the-ground support structure.

Jodi Marshall documents a wall at at Fort Vancouver



In cooperation with the nonprofit Community Military Appreciation Committee and the city of Vancouver, NPS officials hope to rebuild the flagpole. It would become the primary flagpole at Fort Vancouver NHS.

For more information on Fort Vancouver NHS, go to <http://www.nps.gov/fova/index.htm>

### **Manzanar National Historic Site Releases Publication**

Manzanar NHS announced the publication of *A Place of Beauty and Serenity: Excavation and Restoration of the Arai Family Fish Pond*, by NPS historian Jeff Burton with Mary M. Farrell, Erin Brasefield, Eddie Noguchi, Richard Potashin, and Laura Wai Ng. This report presents the results of the excavation and restoration of the Arai family fishpond at the Manzanar Relocation Center. The results of the investigation provide insight into the ways one imprisoned family modified their environment to improve their surroundings.

The project integrated oral and archival history and archeological investigations to find the pond that had been built by Jack Hansho Arai. Abandoned for decades, archeologists found an irregularly-shaped pond, roughly 22 by 22 feet and up to 2'6" deep. Bordered with rocks, the concrete-lined pond included three islands, a fish tunnel and water lily boxes. Over 2,000 artifacts were recovered, including marbles and other toys, whole beverage bottles, abalone shells, eating utensils, pond plant remains, nails, and broken glass.

To read the entire report, go to

[www.academia.edu/7518628/A Place of Beauty and Serenity Excavation and Restoration of the Arai Family Fish Pond Manzanar National Historic Site](http://www.academia.edu/7518628/A_Place_of_Beauty_and_Serenity_Excavation_and_Restoration_of_the_Arai_Family_Fish_Pond_Manzanar_National_Historic_Site) to download the report.

### **Teaching with Historic Places Lesson about Charlesfort-Santa Elena National Historic Landmark**



The NPS and the Santa Elena Foundation invite teachers to use their new online lesson plan, *Digging into the Colonial Past: Archeology and the 16<sup>th</sup>-Century Spanish Settlements at Charlesfort-Santa Elena*, the latest publication in the NPS *Teaching with Historic Places* series. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> lesson in the *Teaching with Historic Places* series that brings the important stories of historic sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places into classrooms across the country.

The lesson plan helps students to learn about the discovery of 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish colonial settlements on South Carolina's Parris Island and how that changed our understanding of the story of Europeans in North America. The settlements on the island predate other well-known settlements on Roanoke Island, Jamestown, and Plymouth.

In the lesson, students examine how archeologists use both archeological evidence and written records to uncover the past. Using archeological data, modern and contemporary maps, images, and written accounts of the settlement, students will learn about Spanish colonists, gain insight into the lives of the Spanish colonists, and understand Spain's ambitions for North America in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The Charlesfort-Santa Elena lesson plan was created cooperatively by the NPS, the Santa Elena Project Foundation, and the Kingdom of Spain. It was written by historian and education specialist Jaclyn Jecha for the Santa Elena Project Foundation, with assistance from Dr. Paul E. Hoffman of Louisiana State University. The project was initiated by the NPS Archeology Program through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kingdom of Spain and supported by the Spanish Embassy.

To access the lesson, go to

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/155santaelena/155santaelena.htm>

For more information about Teaching with Historic Places, go to <http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/>

### **Inaugural Virtual Wildland Fire Resource Advisor Course Presented**

A webinar-based wildland fire resource advisor (READ) course was successfully presented for the first time in NPS history April 29-May 1, 2014, to provide greater access to this important curriculum. READs are recruited from natural and cultural resource specialists, including archeologists. The classroom-based training was developed in collaboration with NPS Pacific West Region and Intermountain Region fire management staff, Yosemite NP, and the NPS Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program.

A webinar version of the course responds to the growing demand for READs at fires and shrinking training and travel budgets. Being able to coordinate the course remotely reduced costs while bringing together experts from across the country. The course has its roots in training first developed with the BLM in 2002, and has evolved over 12 years and more than 20 presentations to interagency audiences into a three-day, scenario-based course.

The pilot webinar presentation of Wildland Fire for Resource Advisors (N-9042) condensed the three days/24 hours of presentation into three days/12 hours of presentation, with an additional short on-line assessment for participants to demonstrate their grasp of the material. The average attendance was around 160 people, and the presenters learned that there were multiple participants at several locations. Many parks would not have been able to allow as many participants unless the course was brought to them.

The cadre plans to present this course again on-line, and make the recordings available for self-study, adding even more flexibility to the curriculum. Future versions will incorporate role-playing scenarios and other more interactive tools.



Archeologist resource advisor Jun Kinoshita (left) plays the role of a firefighter who has come across an archeological site during the course of mop-up during training scenario. NPS photo

### **Mysterious Hotchkiss Cannon Shell Fragments Found at Scotts Bluff National Monument**

While doing field work for a geologic map of Scotts Bluff NM, Emmett Evanoff of Northern Colorado University found three fragments of a cannon shell in a small canyon at the base of South Bluff. Doug Scott, retired NPS archeologist and adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, provisionally identified the fragments as a Hotchkiss cannon shell. The Hotchkiss shot a 42mm shell and was sometimes called a mountain gun. It was the type of weapon used throughout the west in the 1880s and 1890s and at the massacre at Wounded Knee.

Scotts Bluff NM's museum collection contains another shell fragment that appears to be identical to the fragment found by Evanoff, found at the base of Scotts Bluff in 1927. At that time, President Woodrow Wilson had established Scotts Bluff NM, but there were no facilities or permanent staff at the site. The fragment was donated to the national monument at a later date.

The mystery remains as to who fired these shots and why. NPS Midwestern Archeological Center staff will visit Scotts Bluff NM this fall to gather more information and possible fragments of other shells.



*By Robert Manasek,  
Resource Management Specialist*

### **Trading Cards Commemorate Tragedy at Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site**

2014 marks 150 years since the atrocities of the Sand Creek Massacre, during which troops of the First and Third Regiments Cavalry, Colorado Volunteers, attacked a peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho village on the banks of the Big Sandy Creek on November 29, 1864, despite the presence of an American flag and white flag of truce.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho camped at Sand Creek under assurances of protection by the United States Army. During the attack, soldiers massacred 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho, mostly women, children, and elderly, and mutilated many of their bodies. Accounts of atrocities committed by the troops quickly spread across the country, prompting two congressional investigations and a military inquiry.



A ranger shares the new trading cards with a young visitor.

The First Regiment served as an infantry unit against Confederate forces during the Battles of Apache Canyon and Glorieta Pass in 1862. Many of the troops of the First Regiment volunteered for service in 1861 in response to an anticipated Confederate invasion of the Colorado territory. Many of these veterans later refused orders to attack the Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek and testified against those who did.

In 1865, as part of the Treaty of the Little Arkansas, the U.S. government accepted responsibility for and condemned the attack. Sand Creek Massacre NHS is Colorado's only officially recognized Civil War site.

To assist staff in conveying the massacre story to visitors, Sand Creek Massacre NHS has developed six new educational "trading" cards as part of the NPS "From Civil War to Civil Rights" trading card program. The park is one of the most recent parks to commemorate events in this way.

"The cards highlight some of the people, places, and events associated with the story of the Sand Creek Massacre and its Civil War connection," said Superintendent Alexa Roberts. "The cards provide a unique way of connecting stories of parks across the country for young visitors."

*By Shawn Gillette*

### **Ebey's Land National Historical Reserve Hosts Snakelum Canoe Restoration**

When Island County Historical Society Museum director Rick Castellano needed a place to restore a 160-year old, 27-foot-long Coast Salish family canoe, he contacted the operations manager of Ebey's Landing NHR, Craig Holmquist. Holmquist offered the perfect place for the restoration – right next to his office in the Reuble Barn.

In 2012, with funding from the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and the Tulalip Tribal Community, and a secure location, conservators stabilized the fragile and compromised canoe. In the process, the canoe restoration project prompted many stories about the Lower Skagit people, the community members, past restoration efforts, as well as fascinating discoveries – like the small sections of pale blue coloring on the interior, a remnant from when it was first carved and decorated.



The Snakelum canoe being carried from Reuble Barn at Ebey's Landing NHR. Photo by Rick Castellano, Island County Historical Society.

Built in the style of coastal tribes, the massive Snakelum canoe was carved from a red cedar tree between 600 and 800 years old, yet is surprisingly light, weighing approximately 400 pounds. One of the first documented owners was Chief Snetlum of the Lower Skagit Tribe on Penn Cove, now within the boundaries of Ebey's Landing NHR. After Snetlum's death in 1852, the canoe passed to his sons, Kwuss ka nam and Hel mits: both men signed the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott, creating the Swinomish Reservation. Eventually the canoe settled with Snetlum's grandson, Charlie Snakelum, who was born about 1846.

Snakelum and his family used the canoe extensively in their travels on the Salish Sea as they gathered food stores and visited distant relatives. Following Snakelum's death in 1932, the canoe was displayed in downtown Coupeville near the Alexander Blockhouse. Eventually it was perched atop a canoe shed in front of the museum. By the time it was finally moved under a protective roof, the elements and souvenir seekers had taken their toll.

Now, after two years, the Snakelum Canoe restoration project is complete, and on July 30, 2014, the massive canoe was carefully moved from the Reuble Barn into an enclosed truck and made the journey to the Swinomish Reservation. The canoe was met by a large contingent of Swinomish Tribal Community members. As the canoe was lifted from the truck, men, women, and children from the tribe reverently approached the canoe to assist in carrying it to its temporary resting place. In celebration, members of Snakeulm's family sang a song of welcome.

The Snakelum Canoe will be on display at the Swinomish Casino & Lodge through September, when it will return to the museum as the centerpiece of the new Native American and Natural History exhibit.

*By Carol L. Castellano, Office Administrator*

### **Yucca House National Monument Access Challenged by Landowner**

Yucca House NM in far southwest Colorado is one of the smallest NPS units in the country in terms of visitor numbers. It also involves one of the more unusual journeys to get there. Visitors must follow NPS directions that include details like "head toward the white ranch house with red roof on the west horizon."

Visitors must get out of their vehicles to open and close cattle gates as they pass through private property before they reach the modest entrance that is not much more than a fence with a sign fronting the buried remains of one of the largest archeological sites in the state.

A visit is well worth the trip, however. The monument has a different grandeur than that of Mesa Verde NP, because its 600 rooms, 100 kivas, and great kiva surrounded by a plaza are only hinted at by humps of rocks and bits of walls that were part of a large community around A.D. 1200.

Getting to Yucca House NM could become even more difficult if the owners of the neighboring Box Bar Ranch get their way. They have asked Montezuma County to close off access on the county road that cuts through their property and leads to the 95-year-old monument.

In a county where an active contingent of constitutionalists view individual property rights as paramount and the land-managing Federal government as the enemy, having county officials vacate the road and close off the access is not that far-fetched. The application to close the road to the public said that visitors to the monument were disturbing agricultural activities by blocking the road and damaging irrigation



equipment and crops. Cliff Spencer, superintendent of nearby Mesa Verde NP and the overseer of Yucca House NM, was surprised by the road-closure request for a monument that gets only about 1,000 visitors annually.

The Montezuma County Commissioners have scheduled a hearing for September 8, 2014, to decide the matter. Spencer said in the meantime he hopes to meet with the property owners and county officials to see if there is another solution short of keeping the public out of a national monument.

For more information about Yucca House NM (including those directions!), go to <http://www.nps.gov/yuho/planyourvisit/directions.htm>

*By Nancy Lofholm, The Denver Post*

### **NPS Funds War of 1812 Research at Sackets Harbor**

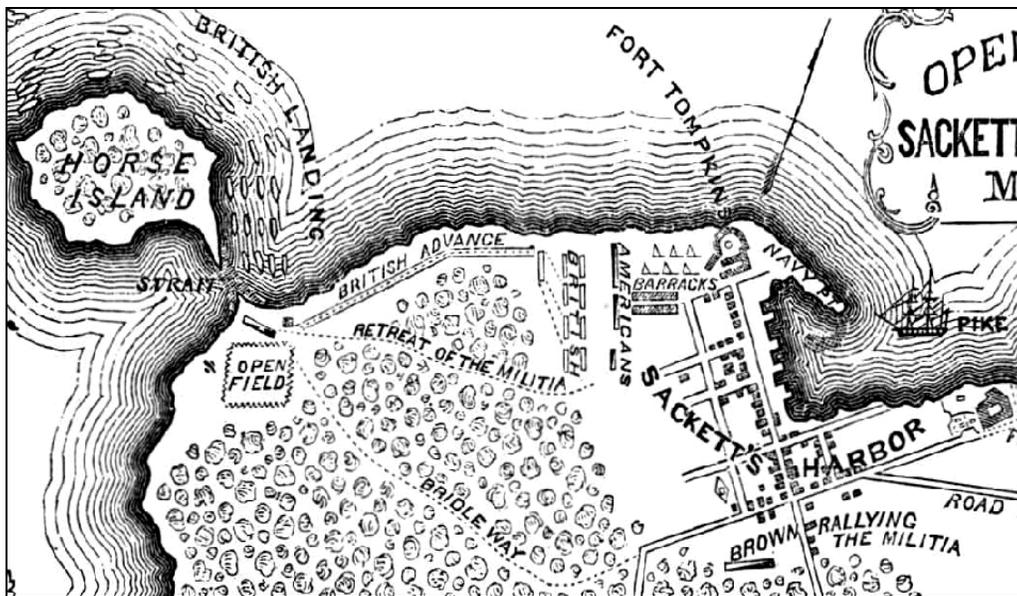
The Friends of Sackets Harbor Battleground have completed a research project on the 1813 Second Battle of Sackets Harbor, on the St. Lawrence River, funded by NPS American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. conducted the project, which included a metal-detecting survey, blood residue analysis, and a reinterpretation of the battle's history and outcome.

The Second Battle of Sackets Harbor on May 28–29, 1813, began with an early morning naval assault and amphibious landing by British troops at one of the most productive American naval facilities in the

northern theater of war. The British navy and expeditionary forces took advantage of a tactical mistake and poor planning on the part of the Americans. In an effort to draw British naval defenses away from their shipyards in Kingston, Ontario, the Americans sent a large naval force west to join the battle at York. With few officers and troops remaining behind, Sackett Harbor was vulnerable to attack.

The British landed about 900 troops on Horse Island, a small, stony island, connected with the mainland by a narrow causeway. They quickly overran the American defenses and chased them into the open fields and woods west of the shipyards and forts. While the British engaged with the retreating American defense force, other contingents advanced to the east. With backup from naval bombardment, the British overran the American cantonment and caused significant damage to Forts Tompkins and Volunteer. The Americans within the shipyards feared capture of the facility and set fire to the port and stores, losing about half of their ships and supplies. The British had victory in their grasp when Sir George Prevost, commander of the expeditionary force, ordered a retreat from the harbor back to Horse Island and the awaiting ships.

Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. conducted a metal-detecting survey focusing on a large agricultural field where the British engaged with the retreating American forces. Historical accounts of the battle differ, but the popularly accepted narrative is that the American militia and volunteers holding the mainland fled as the British advanced and offered no significant challenge. The metal-detecting survey, however, identified multiple skirmish lines retreating from the British forces. If the retreating Americans had flanked the British, Prevost's forces would have been pinned inside the cantonment and defeated or captured.



Map Depicting Battle of Sackett Harbor

This new archeological evidence demonstrates that the American defenders continued to regroup and fight back, perhaps giving Prevost reason to pause and beat an orderly retreat once certain objectives were met. Archeologists recovered dozens of musket balls from both American and British guns. Some of those were dropped, never fired, but many bore the evidence of impact with a solid object. Five musket balls were sent for blood protein residue analysis, four obviously fired and one dropped. While the

dropped musket ball showed no signs of contact, each of the four fired shots bore evidence of human blood protein. Relatively few comparable studies of protein residue analysis have been completed using ABPP grant funding.

The research was presented at the 2014 Fields of Conflict conference in March. The study of Sacket's Harbor was featured in a documentary that aired on a local PBS affiliate (<http://www.wcny.org/television/losing-ground/>).

### **NPS Awards \$500,000 in Grants to Protect Four Civil War Battlefields**

NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis announced more than \$500,000 in grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to help preserve land at four of America's Civil War battlefields threatened with damage or destruction by urban and suburban development. The grant projects are at the Bentonville (NC), Kelly's Ford (VA), Rappahannock Station (VA) and Shepherdstown (WV) battlefields.

In making the announcement, Jarvis underscored President Obama's call for full and permanent funding for the LWCF, through which a small portion of revenues from Federal oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf is dedicated to helping states and local communities create ball fields, bike trails and other recreational facilities, expand hunting and fish access, preserve battlefields, and undertake conservation projects. The program, which only been fully funded at its \$900 million authorized level once in its 50-year history, is set to expire this year without action from Congress.

"Next week we celebrate the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson signing into law the legislation to establish the Land and Water Conservation Fund," Jarvis said. "There is no better time for Congress to guarantee all the oil and gas revenues that are supposed to be used for recreation, conservation and battlefield preservation are in fact be used for that purpose rather than siphoned off to other purposes."

The battlefield grants are administered by the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program, one of more than a dozen programs administered by the NPS that provide states and local communities technical assistance, recognition, and funding to help preserve their own history and create close-to-home recreation opportunities. Consideration for the Civil War battlefield land acquisition grants is given to battlefields listed in the National Park Service's Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields.

Grants are awarded to units of state and local governments for the fee simple acquisition of land, or for the non-federal acquisition of permanent, protective interests in land (easements). Private non-profit groups may apply in partnership with state or local government sponsors.

Complete guidelines for grant eligibility and application forms are available online at: <http://www.nps.gov/abpp/>

**Contact:** Elizabeth Vehmeyer, Grants Management Specialist, at 202-354-2215 or [elizabeth\\_vehmeyer@nps.gov](mailto:elizabeth_vehmeyer@nps.gov).

### **NPS Grants Help Native Americans to Identify, Repatriate Human Remains, Cultural Objects**

The NPS awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) to assist museums, Indian tribes, and Alaska Native villages to document and return human remains and cultural objects to communities of origin.

Grants were awarded to museums, Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages and Native Hawaiian organizations to document NAGPRA-related objects and to pay for the costs associated with the return of the remains and objects to their native people. This year, 29 grants totaling \$1,471,625 are going to 24 recipients for consultation/documentation projects, and \$95,423 is going to 8 repatriation projects. Projects funded by the grant program include consultations, training on NAGPRA, digitizing collection records, and the preparation and transport of items back to their native people.

Enacted in 1990, NAGPRA requires museums and federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections, and to consult with federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native villages, and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding the return of these objects to descendants or tribes and organizations. The Act also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to assist in implement provisions of the Act.

**Contact:** Sherry Hutt, National NAGPRA Program Manager, 202-354-1479

### **National Preservation Institute Offers GIS Training**

*GIS: Practical Applications for Cultural Resource Projects* will be held in Richmond, VA on October 21-22 and again on October 23-24, 2014. Learn how to use GIS applications for identification, evaluation, protection and preservation of cultural resources. From assisting with inventories, to mapping historic districts and battlefields, to mitigating the impact of disasters on historic areas, GIS technology can be used to provide a better basis for planning and decision making for the nation's heritage. Instructor is Deidre McCarthy, NPS historian and technical services specialist, Cultural Resources GIS (CRGIS).

A registration form is available at [www.npi.org/register.html](http://www.npi.org/register.html). The advance registration rate is available through September 10, 2014. Space is limited to 12 participants in each session. An agenda is available at [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

Seminars held in cooperation with the NPS CRGIS, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

The National Preservation Institute, a nonprofit organization founded in 1980, educates those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of cultural heritage. The 2014-2015 National Preservation Institute seminar schedule is available at [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

**Contact:** Jere Gibber, (703)765-0100 or [info@npi.org](mailto:info@npi.org); [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org)

### **Albright-Wirth Grant Program FY 2015 Cycle Now Open**

The Horace M. Albright-Conrad L. Wirth Grant is a prestigious developmental opportunity that annually funds NPS employees' personal and career development projects. Throughout its 27 year history, the Albright-Wirth grant has funded more than 1,000 projects, including archeological projects and archeologists' career development projects.

The FY 2015 Albright-Wirth Grant application period opened on August 20 and will close on September 26, 2014. Applications must be submitted online and are available through the AWGP SharePoint site (<http://share.nps.gov/awg>). Supervisory approval is required for all project proposals. Go to the SharePoint site for additional program information including specific program guidelines, rating criteria, and FAQs.

Funding amounts for FY 2014 are not to exceed:

- \$3,500 for individual grants
- \$7,000 for partner grants (two individuals)
- \$10,500 for team grants (three or more individuals)

**Contact:** Lisa Nicol at (202) 354-1998.

Also, see the interview with Jun Kinoshita in the July 2014 Archeology E-Gram for an example of use of an Albright-Wirth grant to further an archeologist's career, at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/NEW.HTM>

### **Society for History in the Federal Government Powell Prize Call for Nominations**

The Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) invites nominations for the 2015 John Wesley Powell Prize (Historic Exhibit or Display Projects). The John Wesley Powell Prize commemorates the explorer and Federal administrator whose work demonstrated early recognition of the importance of historic preservation and historical display.

The Powell Prize alternates annually in recognizing excellence in historic preservation and historical displays. In 2015, the prize will be awarded to an individual or to principal collaborators for a single major historical display or exhibit project, including archeology, completed in 2013 or 2014. The award for historical display is given for any form of interpretive historical presentation including, but not limited to, museum exhibits, historical films, CD/DVDs, websites, or multi-media displays. The winner will be announced in the spring of 2015 at the annual meeting of the SHFG.

Applications are due November 30, 2014. Further information on the SHFG Powell Award is available at <http://shfg.org/shfg/awards/awards-requirements/>

### **ICOMOS Condemns Irresponsible Excavation of Archeological Material in Popular Media**

The presidents of the Australian Archaeological Association, the Canadian Archaeological Association, the European Association of Archaeologists, the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM), the Pan African Archaeological Association, the World Archaeological Congress, and the Secretary-General of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association have together released a statement concerning the proliferation of content in popular media that celebrates and encourages the destruction of the archeological record after discussions initiated at a meeting of presidents held on 5 April 2014, in Austin, Texas.

The organizations call upon the media to refrain from broadcasting any program that presents in a favorable manner excavation of archeological materials in any way that does not adhere to the excavation protocols that conform to standard archeological practice around the world. They further note that, if appropriately produced, archaeology- and heritage-related programs in the media can be effective tools that provide the public with knowledge that is satisfying on a personal level and useful to all of us as we plot our course through a globalized and rapidly changing world.

To read the Austin Declaration, go to <http://www.iccom.org/austin-declaration-on-the-excavation-of-archaeological-material-in-the-popular-media/>

### **Information Wanted by BLM on Rock Art Vandals in Utah**

BLM is offering a reward of up to \$500 to help catch the vandals who spray-painted shooting targets onto rocks near ancient Native American art in Utah County. The BLM's Salt Lake Field Office received a

report that someone had spray-painted at least a dozen targets onto rocks in the Lake Mountains area, west of Utah Lake. Evidence found at the scene indicated the targets were shot with large-caliber weapons. The BLM believes the vandalism occurred between July 25 and July 31. Though the targets were not spray-painted directly onto Native American art, the vandals can still face penalties that include fines and jail time.

The Lake Mountains area has been vandalized for target practice before. In 2011, the BLM went to great effort and expense to remove similar spray-painted targets in the area. The area is also a hot spot for target practice. But rather than deface irreplaceable relics, the BLM says sharpshooters should use paper targets backstopped by soft earth.

The Lake Mountains area is home to rock art created by the Fremont Culture, individuals who lived in the Utah area between A.D. 400 and 1300. The art around Utah Lake is estimated to be at least a thousand years old.

The BLM has urged anyone with information about the Lake Mountains vandalism to call ranger Randy Griffin at 801-977-4314.

*By Harry Stevens, Salt Lake Tribune*

### **NPS Settles with Employee Who Reported Missing Artifacts**

The NPS has reached a settlement with an employee who said she was unfairly fired over the 1990 removal of Native American human remains from Effigy Mounds National Monument that were only returned three years ago, newly released records show. Sharon Greener, a former employee at the northeastern Iowa site, says she was a part-time ranger when she was directed by then-superintendent Tom Munson to pack two cardboard boxes with museum artifacts. Tribal representatives suspect Munson removed the artifacts to circumvent a new federal law requiring museums to return ancient remains to tribes.

Munson returned the artifacts, including fragments of jaws and leg bones believed to be 1,000 to 2,000 years old, in 2011 after new superintendent Jim Nepstad opened an inquiry into what happened. Munson said they had been in the garage of his Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, home. Previous superintendents looked into what happened to the artifacts, but they weren't recovered until Nepstad's 2011 inquiry.

The NPS suspended and fired Greener even though she had reported the missing artifacts to superiors at least eight times in the 1990s and 2000s, she claimed in records released under the Freedom of Information Act. The agency accused her of a "lack of candor," placed her on paid leave in 2012 and fired her a year later, in June 2013. Greener's appeal argued she was fired in violation of whistleblower protections, made a scapegoat when her reports "could no longer be swept under the rug."

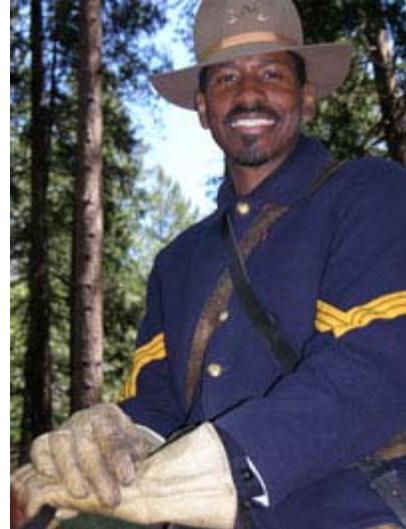
The agency settled in April, agreeing to reinstate her with back pay, reimburse her attorneys' fees, and allow her to retire early. The \$48,000 per-year employee was ultimately paid nearly two years' salary.

*By Ryan J. Foley, Associated Press*

### **Slightly Off Topic: NPS Ranger Johnson on Why Spending Time Outdoors Is Civil Rights Issue**

Shelton Johnson fought fires, lectured on California's wildlife, performed in a one-man show about the Buffalo Soldiers, and, in the documentary, *The Way Home: Returning to the National Parks*, insists that African Americans reconnecting with nature are participating in the last act of the Civil Rights movement. African Americans spend less time in parks than European Americans, and Johnson has been on a mission to reverse this.

Johnson has spent 30 years of his life working in Yosemite NP and Yellowstone NP – 28 of them as a park ranger. When Johnson worked at Yellowstone NP, he was a firefighter and worked the biggest firefighting effort in U.S. history. Today, Johnson is an interpretive ranger, well-versed in the park's geological, plant life, wildlife, and cultural histories. One of the stories Johnson is most interested in sharing is the role that African Americans have played in protecting our national parks, and how that history should encourage African Americans to return to their roots by engaging with nature.



In his work, Johnston shares stories about the Buffalo Soldiers, African American soldiers in the U.S. Army who fought in several of the American Indian wars in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. According to Johnston, they got their nickname from American Indians who said that their hair was just like the matted cushion between the horns of a buffalo. One of the Buffalo Soldiers' duties was to protect the Yosemite NP and Sequoia & Kings Canyon NP, meaning African Americans were among the first stewards of public lands, before the NPS was even created.

Johnson also shares the compelling story of how black Americans were systematically distanced from their relationship with the earth when enslaved. During slavery, the wilderness symbolized freedom because that was where slaves took refuge when they wanted to escape the brutalities of the plantation. One reason Johnson believes that black slaves were fond of the outdoors is that it was uncharted territory that put everyone on an equal footing.

Then slavery was abolished and black people – for the most part – gradually were able to own property and build towns. But that progress attracted scorn from white Americans, in part because black Americans were now economic competitors. Groups like the Ku Klux Klan emerged and were threatened by a burgeoning black middle class. At that point, according to Johnson, *the home* was the black man's safe haven and *the woods* represented terror. That lack of interface with the outdoors persists to this day.

In the documentary, Johnson comments, “We descend from people who had that connection—that visceral, emotional, physical, spiritual connection to the earth,” and calls to action all black Americans to join him outside.

***Many thanks to NPS Intern Leah Bergin for editing the E-Gram this month!***

*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

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*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 *Projects in Parks* web page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.htm> or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram*.

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