



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



April 2006 Archeology E-Gram

Archeology Program Coordinates Peer Review of COE Birds Point – New Madrid Floodway Archeological Mitigation

The NPS Archeology Program coordinated a peer review of a large, multi-phase archeological program carried out by the Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Memphis District in the Bird Point – New Madrid Floodway, southeastern Missouri, between 1989 and 2004. The COE, Memphis District requested the peer review to ensure that archeological investigations and results to date were of the highest standards and so that work still to be completed could be informed by professional recommendations of the peer review team. Peer review team members David G. Anderson (University of Tennessee), Tristram R. Kidder (Washington University, St. Louis), and Signa Larralde (BLM-New Mexico) met in Memphis, TN, on March 20-24, 2006 to review the project area, reports and other documents, and to conduct interviews with key project personnel. The team was assisted by Peer Review Coordinator Martha Graham and Departmental Consulting Archeologist Frank McManamon. Graham and McManamon worked with COE, Memphis District to distribute documentation about the mitigation projects to the team members prior to the meeting; and provided guidance and assistance in identifying issues for the team to consider. The peer review assessed effectiveness and appropriateness of archeological resource identification, evaluation, and data recovery methods and techniques in relation to required standards for archeological and historic preservation. The Archeology Program will assist the team in editing and producing the final report.

More information about peer reviews may be found in “The Peer Review of Public Archeology Projects” by Bennie C. Keel, Southeast Archeological Center, NPS (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/PUBS/TECHBR/tch14A.htm>)

Katmai NP&P Publishes Book on Prehistory and History of Region

In September 2005 Katmai NP&P published a prehistory and history of the Naknek region of the park, “A Naknek Chronicle: Ten Thousand Years in a Land of Lakes and Rivers and Mountains of Fire.” The author, Don E. Dumond, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University of Oregon, wrote this book for the public on behalf of the NPS. The book focuses not only on archeology and early history, but also extends into the early 20th century, and includes information about the Mt. Katmai eruption, the Spanish influenza pandemic of 1919, and the development of the fishing industry. “A Naknek Chronicle” also carries an afterword by John Branson, the park historian that describes the role of Frank Hill in the development of the publication. A native of the region, Hill believed that the study of local history helps to understand and accept cultural change, and that this knowledge can offer guidance for the future. As an influential educator in the public school system, Hill strongly endorsed a non-technical book to make local history accessible to students and to the public.

30 years of Service by NPS Archeologist Larry Nordby

Archeologist Larry Nordby worked for the NPS for 30 years before his retirement in April of last year. During his career, he contributed greatly to the advancement of archeological and preservation methods, as well as enhancing professionalism and building research programs within the NPS.

Larry held a variety of management and research positions in the Intermountain Region including Chief of the Branch of Cultural Resources at the NPS Cultural Resource Center in Santa Fe. He also served as the Regional Archeologist of the Southwest Region for a number of years. The last 10 years of his career were spent at Mesa Verde NP where he established the Archeological Site Conservation Program (ASCP) to better manage and protect more than 4700 archeological sites within the park's boundary. In all of these positions, Larry's influence has been far-reaching and his ideas have been incorporated into program standards.

Prior to 1994, no consolidated archeology program existed for managing Mesa Verde NP archeological resources. Information on site conditions was incomplete and there was no methodology for archeological site documentation. Under the ASCP, baseline information for previously identified sites was collected, uniform standards for site documentation and records management were set, and assessment procedures for newly identified sites were developed. This program of documentation enables park staff to better monitor archeological projects, manage site information in a tabular and graphic database, and properly catalogue and archival field records and reports.

Standardizing procedures under the ASCP allowed the park to establish a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to documenting its more than 600 cliff dwellings, most of which possess original architectural fabric such as intact surface finishes, wooden elements, rock art, and historic inscriptions. Under the ASCP, the park focuses its resources on documenting these sites in a hierarchical manner, first systematically assessing the condition of a cliff dwelling; then recording its architecture, construction sequences, techniques, and methods; and , finally, treating and stabilizing site fabric as necessary.

Larry also participated in the Vanishing Treasures Initiative, established in 1993 to respond to backlogged treatments needs and missing condition information for thousands of archeological sites at 41 NPS units in the Southwest. This initiative provides funds for the care and management of cultural resources throughout the Intermountain Region, including establishing new permanent positions for archeologists, historians, masons, structural engineers, and exhibit specialists. Larry served on various workgroups for the Vanishing Treasures Program including the Guidelines and Definitions Workgroup, Career Development Workgroup, and Advisory Group.

During his NPS career, Larry was involved in many other professional activities . Outside of the NPS, he served on the Executive Board, Society of Professional Archeology (1986-7); the Executive Committee, American Society for Conservation Archeology (1986-8); the Archeological Review Committee, City of Santa Fe, NM (1988-1991); and the Advisory Board, Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO. Because of his interest and expertise in submerged cultural resources, he also was a member of the NPS Submerged Resources Center (1979-1996); the NPS Regional Dive Officer, Southwest Region (1979-1986); and a member of an Archeological Advisory Team to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's U.S.S. Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.

Larry's friends and colleagues wish him well, and hope that he has enjoyed his first year of retirement.

(Thanks to Julie A. Bell, MEVE, for background information)

Projects in Parks: Chaco Digital Initiative

The Chaco Digital Initiative is a collaborative effort between the NPS, the University of Virginia, and museums, universities, archives, and laboratories to integrate archaeological data collected from Chaco Canyon. Currently, these materials are housed at numerous repositories around the country, making it difficult to answer even fundamental research questions. The Chaco Digital Initiative is making the research and human history of this national treasure more easily available through a comprehensive digital research archive, parts of which can be accessed through a public website. The goal is to ensure that these early archaeological research records are preserved and accessible to future generations. Much research information about archeological collections, excavation fieldnotes, and photographs from Chaco Canyon is available at the Chaco Digital Initiative website at <http://www.chacoarchive.org/>.

NPS employees who can access the NPS intranet can learn more about this project by going to **Projects in Parks** <<http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670>> on InsideNPS.

“Projects in Parks” is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that serves to inform others of interesting archeology-related projects in a national park. Past reports are available on the *Projects in Parks* webpage, accessed through the Archeology homepage, on InsideNPS. To contribute project information, contact **Karen Mudar**, karen_mudar@nps.gov

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 and new subscribers are accepted. Past issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* are available on the *Archeology E-Gram* webpage, accessed through the Archeology homepage, on InsideNPS. Contact Karen Mudar, Archeology Program, NPS, at (202) 354-2103, karen_mudar@nps.gov to contribute news items and to subscribe.