



## Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### October 2006 Archeology E-Gram

#### **NPS and Taiwanese experts meet**

A delegation from Taiwan met on September 27, 2006, with a group of NPS experts to learn about management, organizational, and operational issues related to the designation of national parks, the NPS Maritime Heritage Program, the National Register of Historic Places, and underwater cultural heritage. The delegation was led by Dr. Nien-Tsu Alfred Hu, Professor of Marine Policy and Law of the Sea and Director of the Center for Marine Policy Studies at National Sun Yat-sen University. Other delegation members included Ms. Yu-Ling Emma Lin, Executive Secretary of the Center for Marine Policy Studies; Dr. Chang-Ching James Tsai, Associate Professor of Tourism Management at National Kaohsiung University; and Mr. Andy Cheu-An Bi, Senior Executive Cultural Officer of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States.

Maureen Foster, Acting Chief of Park Planning and Special Studies, explained the process and criteria for designating new national parks. Kevin Foster provided an overview of maritime history preservation in the United States, and described the work of the NPS Maritime Heritage Program, which he directs. NPS archeologist Erika Martin-Seibert provided an overview of the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs and their criteria, and explained how information about historic properties is made available to students and the public through the Teaching with Historic Places and the National Register Travel Itineraries Programs. NPS archeologist Michele Aubry provided information about underwater cultural heritage laws, regulations, policies, and programs relating at the federal, state, and local levels of government; and described how the NPS manages, interprets, preserves, and protects underwater sites in units of the national park system. On subsequent days, the delegation met with experts from other federal agencies including NOAA and its National Marine Sanctuaries and Maritime Heritage Programs.

#### **NPS and Spanish experts meet and sign international agreement**

On October 17, 2006, a delegation from Spain's Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports met at the Spanish Embassy with representatives from the NPS, the Naval Historical Center, NOAA, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General Office, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of Justice. The meeting included a signing ceremony of a long-term loan agreement between the NPS and Spain for curation and public interpretation of the Spanish shipwreck collection recovered at Assateague Island NS; and an exchange of information about cultural resources and heritage management.

Spain was represented by Julian Martinez Garcia, Director General of Fine Arts and Cultural Heritage; Luis Lafuente Batanero, Deputy Director General for Protection of Cultural Heritage; Elisa de Cabo, Head of Department for Cultural Heritage; Jorge Sobredo, Cultural Counselor at the Spanish Embassy; Captain Juan Carlos San Martin, Naval Attaché; and James Goold, Lead Counsel to Spain at Covington & Burling. The NPS was represented by Randy Biallas, Assistant Director for Park Cultural Resource Programs, WASO; Scott Bentley, Superintendent, and Carl Zimmerman, Resource Management Division Chief, both at Assateague Island National Seashore; Beth Boland, Historian, Heritage Education Services, WASO; Michele Aubry, Archeologist, Archeology Program, WASO; and Stephen Morris, Chief, and Linda Bennett, International Cooperation Specialist, both in the Office of International Affairs, WASO.

Remarks by NPS Assistant Director Randy Biallas focused on the Spanish shipwreck collection recovered at Assateague Island NS, the Spanish Treasure Fleets Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan and five National Register Travel Itineraries highlighting Spanish heritage sites; and the potential for enhanced cooperation between Spain and the NPS at the 43 parks containing or commemorating Spanish heritage in the United States. Barbara Voulgaris from the Naval Historical Center and John Broadwater from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration made presentations about their respective agency's cultural resources management programs.

On October 18, 2006, the Spanish delegation traveled to Assateague Island NS to view their collection of artifacts and plans for construction of a new visitor center at the park.

### **Government Perspective on Public Archeology in *The SAA Archeological Record***

The September 2006 issue of *The SAA Archaeology Record* focuses on the challenges and rewards of carrying out archeological projects within municipal, state, tribal and federal government programs. Archeologists working for the BLM; U.S. Army; White Mountain Apache Tribe; Pima County, AZ; Calvert County, MD; Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office; and the NPS discussed recent archeological activities undertaken with their programs.

The issue also commemorates the centennial of the Antiquities Act, signed in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt. The commemorative section features articles by NPS and BLM archeologists that highlight the significance of the Antiquities Act for archeological resource preservation, and the legacies that have been created to commemorate this remarkable law.

Barbara Little, Archeologist, NPS Archeology Program, and Teresa Moyer, who coordinated the NPS Antiquities Act centennial commemoration, edited this volume. Past issues of *The SAA Archaeology Record* are available online at: <http://www.saa.org/publications/theSAAArchRec/>.

### **Fall Events at Independence Living History Center--Archeology Lab, Independence NHP**

Staff at the Independence Living History Center (ILHC) Archeology Laboratory, Independence Park Education program (the *Independence Park Institute*) and Ball State University Teachers College collaborated to develop an Electronic Field Trip (EFT) entitled *Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required*. EFT's allow classrooms to visit places on-line, ([www.bsu.edu/eft/](http://www.bsu.edu/eft/)). The EFT includes an archeology segment, entitled "This Piece of History Stinks," that is available at <http://www.bsu.edu/eft/webisodes/> (Note: This video loads extraordinarily slowly with approximately 4 minutes of blank screen prior to running).

In collaboration with the *Philadelphia Archaeological Forum* (PAF), the ILHC Archeology Lab sponsored a day-long event on October 14, 2006, entitled, *Discover Philadelphia's Hidden Past: An Archeology Month Celebration, 2006* (<http://www.phillyarchaeology.org>). The event included eight archeological presentations, a mini-archeological film festival, and an open house at the ILHC Archeology Lab. Results of research from the National Constitution Center site at Independence Park was exhibited and the documentary film, *In The Shadow of Liberty: The Search for James Oronoco Dexter*, directed by Mitchell Smith and funded in part by NPS, was shown.

PAF and the IHLC Archeology Lab staffed an Archeology Information Table in the Independence NHP Visitors Center on weekends throughout October in honor of Pennsylvania's Archeology Month. Copies of an Archeology Month activity sheet (<http://www.phillyarchaeology.org/Kids/images/Archaeology%20Month%20Activities.pdf>) created by the *Independence Park Institute* and ILHC Archeology Lab staff were provided for use, as was a poster

and accompanying brochures that were created by the ILHC Archeology Lab to assist Independence Park in commemorating the Antiquities Act centennial.

Jed Levin, Archeologist with the NPS Northeast Regional Office, assisted the Philadelphia Mayor's Office with resources for the city's public website about the upcoming President's House Excavation, *The President's House: Freedom and Slavery in Making A New Nation* (<http://www.phila.gov/presidentshouse/index.html>). A joint undertaking of the City of Philadelphia and the NPS, *The President's House* project provides an opportunity to tell an important national story -- the birth of the United States side-by-side with the institution of slavery. The archeological project will conduct excavations at the site of the Executive Mansion for the American nation, 1790-1800, located today within Independence NHP. Following the excavations, a permanent installation will be placed at the site to commemorate those who lived and worked at the President's House, including the nine enslaved African Americans who resided there during George Washington's years as President. The web site allows visitors to track the project's progress and communicate their comments and opinions. In addition, it includes links to an archeology briefing paper about the project, a temporary virtual interpretive wayside, the texts of several Community Roundtable Discussions, content related to the memorial competition, historical documents, and news articles about the President's House history, re-discovery, expanded interpretation, and commemoration.

### **Plans to add land, archeological sites to Virgin Islands NP**

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a nonprofit land conservation organization, has announced plans to purchase and preserve 415 acres on the Island of St. John, to be added to Virgin Islands National Park.

"The property, known as Maho Bay, will be added to the park when federal funds are made available," said Greg Chelius, director of TPL's Land Trust in Florida and the Caribbean.

"The National Park on St. John is one of the world's greatest treasures," and, " We are very excited to be part of the effort to preserve its incredible natural beauty," Chelius said in a TPL press release.

The property has more than a quarter-mile of beachfront on pristine Maho Bay and rises to 1,000 feet in height. Significant ruins from the Danish colonial era, 1700-1860, are located on the property. There is also the possibility that pre-Columbian cultural resources from the Taino Indian people may be present.

"Development of this watershed would have had considerable impact on the natural and cultural resources of the park as well as the residents and visitors to St. John," said native St. Johnian Rafe Boulon, chief resource manager for the national park.

The property was owned by 11 heirs in one extended family, each owning 1/11 percentage of the total acreage. In the end, the parties involved felt strongly that the property should remain accessible to the community and the public. Once the acquisition is complete, Virgin Islands NP will comprise 70 percent of the land on the small island.

(Original story by Susan Mann)

### **Projects in Parks: Prehistoric Archeology Research at C&O NHP**

From 2003 through 2005, the Cultural Resource Group of the Louis Berger Group carried out a program under contract to the NPS, National Capital Region to identify and evaluate archeological resources within the lower 59-mile segment of the C&O Canal NHP. This segment extends along the Potomac River from Georgetown in Washington, DC to Sandy Hook just east of Harpers Ferry, WV. This work implements the Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program for the park.

Geoarcheological testing and archeological surveys resulted in identification of 16 new sites and relocation of 14 previously known sites. Several deeply stratified sites are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, certainly at the regional and perhaps at the national level.

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.

*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](mailto:karen_mudar@nps.gov) to contribute news items, stories for “Projects in Parks,” and to subscribe.