August 2009 Archeology E-Gram

David Morgan to be Director of NPS Southeast Archeological Center
David W. Morgan has been appointed Director of the NPS Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC). Morgan comes to SEAC from the NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), where he served as the Chief of Archeology and Collections. At NCPTT Morgan conducted research and disseminated information about archeological technologies. In addition to his research, he managed external grants in his program area.

Before joining NCPTT, Morgan was an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Sciences at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. He also served as the Assistant Director of the Cultural Resource Office, a university-based archeological research and contract program.

Morgan holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Tulane University, an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Alabama, and a B.A. in English from Millsaps College. His research in archeology focuses on the prehistoric and historic southeastern United States, where he has carried out field projects in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Jennifer Pederson Weinberger to be Superintendent at Hopewell Culture NHP
Jennifer A. Pederson Weinberger, currently Chief of Resource Management at Hopewell Culture NHP in Chillicothe, Ohio, has been selected as the new superintendent of the park. She will assume this new post on August 16, 2009. A 10-year NPS veteran, Pederson Weinberger began her Federal career serving from 1995 to 1998 as a seasonal Archeology Technician at the park. During the same time, she was a Graduate Assistant/Associate at the Department of Anthropology, Ohio State University, Columbus. She returned to Hopewell Culture as an archeologist in a permanent capacity in January 1999.

A native of Marietta, Georgia, Pederson Weinberger attended the University of Georgia, earning her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. She earned her Master of Arts and Doctorate in Anthropology at Ohio State University. Pederson Weinberger completed the NPS Mid-Level Management Development Program in 2008.

For more information about Hopewell Culture NHP, go to http://www.nps.gov/hocu/index.htm

NPS National Capital Region Curator Pam West To Retire
NPS National Capital Region (NCR) curator Pamela West has announced her plans to retire at the end of this fiscal year after 34 years of government service. Pam began her NPS career in 1975 as a temporary clerk typist. During the intervening 34 years, Pam has served as a park technician, a museum technician, a museum curator and, for the past 25 years, the regional curator for the National Capital Region and the director of the region’s Museum Resource Center.

For many years, NCR museum collections were stored in a substandard and overcrowded museum storage facility. Responding to the needs of the collections, and to provide a more user friendly facility, Pam developed the funding sources, designed the space, and oversaw the construction of NCR’s Museum Resource Center in Landover, Maryland. This state of the art museum facility, completed in 2003, serves
as the central curatorial facility for NCR. The facility currently houses 5 million objects including 2 million archeological specimens, archival records, thousands of pieces of furniture associated with various historic homes that the region administers, and tens of thousands of objects left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The facility also provides museum care for the Department of the Interior museum collection.

In September 2003, Hurricane Isabel slammed into the east coast of the U.S., wreaking havoc and destruction on NPS units from Florida to Pennsylvania. One of the hardest hit parks was Jamestown NHS, where the park visitor center and all its collections were inundated by the storm surge. At the request of colleagues from Northeast Region, Pam helped lead a team of museum professionals in the successful recovery of millions of archeological specimens and records. As a result of the lessons learned at Jamestown, Pam conceived the concept, pulled together the funding, selected a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, and trained the team in incident command procedures to create the very first Museum Emergency Response Team (MERT) in the U.S. This team now serves as “first responders” to be rapidly deployed to NPS emergencies to rescue and restore museum collections and to assess damage to other cultural and natural resources following a manmade or natural disaster. This model has now been incorporated as a permanent part of the NPS incident command structure and is recognized by FEMA.

From its dedication in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (“the Wall”) has been a site of healing and remembrance for millions of Americans affected by the Vietnam War and other American conflicts. When visitors began to leave objects for fallen relatives or loved ones at the Wall as forms of remembrance and healing, Pam had the vision and foresight to see the significance of those objects and created the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection. This ever-growing collection now encompasses over 100,000 objects, is international in scope, and the subject of numerous press articles, books, college papers, dissertations and television specials.

Her NPS friends and colleagues will miss her and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Salinas Pueblo Celebrates National Monument Centennial
Salinas Pueblo Missions NM, originally established as Gran Quivira NM, in New Mexico, will turn 100 years old on November 1. President Taft established Gran Quivira National Monument to preserve “one of the largest and most important of the early Spanish church ruins” as well as "numerous Indian pueblo ruins in its vicinity" (Proc. No. 882). Archaeological evidence indicates that by 1300 AD pueblo-building people had settled the area, establishing communities of distinct pueblo masonry architecture. In 1598, while exploring the territory he had claimed for Spain, Don Juan de Oñate arrived at the Indian Pueblo he named Las Humanas.

Around 1626 Las Humanas was designated as a visita of San Grégorio de Abó mission. By 1629 Las Humanas had its own resident priest, Fray Francisco de Letrado who, in 1631, began construction on a new church and convento. Although Letrado was transferred before the new church was finished, his successor, Fray Francisco de Acevedo, supervised the completion of a small church that was dedicated to San Isidro in 1629. A second and larger church was begun by Fray Diego de Santandér upon his arrival at Las Humanas after 1659.

By 1660, Humano inhabitants found themselves in the grip of drought and famine without government aid, surviving only on food brought into the Salinas Basin from other missions. Persinant drought plagued the area, eventually leading to the starvation deaths in 1668 of over 450 Humano Indians. A mass grave of more than 450 individuals in the cemetery at Gran Quivira illustrates the ravages of disease and famine on the native population during the late 17th century. In September 1670, Apaches raided Las Humanas and destroyed the mission and pueblo, leaving 11 dead and taking 30 inhabitants as captives. By 1672 the site was abandoned.
Today, Gran Quivira is part of the Salinas Pueblo Missions NM, which includes 1071 acres. Almost 50,000 visitors come each year to walk through the ruins of Gran Quivira via an interpretive trail. A series of archeological excavations and stabilization efforts have cleared away fallen debris to reveal the walls of the Spanish church of San Buenaventura, the unfinished church, and the convento, as well as the mounded ruins of the Indian village.

In celebration of this anniversary, special events are occurring in each month this year. Events held to date include a two-month-long Friday night lecture series, two weeks of special Junior Ranger programs, Native American dancing and drumming programs, pottery-making, flint knapping, special rock art tours, a youth mariachi concert and flamenco dancing.

On November 1, the park will host an alumni reunion. If you have ever worked at Salinas Pueblo Missions and would like to attend the reunion, please contact Norma Pineda at (505) 847-2585 ext. 21.

Other upcoming events, all free of charge, include:

- September 5 (time TBA) – Fiesta mass and fiesta at Abó ruins
- September 19, 7 p.m. – A costumed living history program of Major James Carlton returning to Manzano after 155 years, featuring park guide Craig Morgan, at Gran Quivira.
- October 3 – A costumed living history program entitled “An Evening with the Historic Characters of Salinas Pueblo Missions,” presenting four of the major players in the drama of the establishment of Gran Quivira NM, to be held at Gran Quivira.
- October 16 (time TBA) – A star party featuring the Lake County Astronomical Society from Illinois at Gran Quivira.
- November 1 – Alumni reunion (time, location and activities TBA)
- December (dates TBA) – An ornament decorating contest for Mountainair students and evening luminaria (farolito) tours of the ruins.

Two Men Caught Digging For Artifacts In Gettysburg NMP

On August 18, a park maintenance employee notified rangers that two men had been seen metal detecting behind the McLean House in the northwest corner of Gettysburg NMP. The employee provided a good description of the men’s clothing. Rangers John Sherman and Steve Wukovitz went to the location. Wukovitz saw a lone man in the woods, on his knees and in the process of digging. Wukovitz and Sherman made contact with him but could not find the second man. The apprehended man called the other man on his cell phone and had him walk out of the woods. A search of the area found 11 holes dug on park property. The rangers seized two metal detectors and a small amount of relics from both men. An ARPA investigation is ongoing.

NPS Archeology Program (WASO) Seeks Two Archeologists

The Archeology Program of Cultural Resource Associateship at the NPS is seeking two archeologists to provide leadership, coordination and technical assistance as part of the national office program. This work involves archeological sites, collections, records, data and reports. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing policies, guidance, and programmatic and technical documents.

For more information, contact Francis P. McManamon, 202-354-2123.

Albright Wirth Grant Applications Available
Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 Albright-Wirth grant program. The program awards grants to NPS employees (individuals and groups of three or more) to advance career goals. Supervisory approval is required. Applicants are advised to review application background information, accessible via http://mylearning.nps.gov/awgrant. Applicants are encouraged to think outside the box and use their creativity, resourcefulness, and innovation to make career-enhancing dreams a reality. The AWG program has awarded grants to NPS employees to:

- Learn a new trade
- Publish a research paper
- Detail/shadow an individual/or be mentored
- Pursue college degrees
- Expand partnerships
- Change career paths
- Pursue self-improvement
- Build websites
- Support a detail
- Conduct research
- Develop leadership skills

The Albright-Wirth grant application form is accessible at http://mylearning.nps.gov/awgrant. Applications must be submitted by October 1. Proposals are limited to 2000 characters per question category and funding can be used up to the end of FY 2010.

For more information, contact Albright-Wirth grant administrator Lonnie Lowe (202-354-1487), nps_helplms@nps.gov.

NPS and BLM Offer Archeology Interpretation Training
Mesa Verde NP and Canyons of the Ancients NM, BLM, will offer Effective Interpretation of Archeological and Cultural Heritage Resources on October 19-23, 2009 (September 21 nominations deadline). 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 through increased dialogue and interactions between cultural resource specialists and interpreters for joint development of effective interpretation of cultural heritage. With multi-agency instructors and students, the program augments the missions of federal agencies to provide interagency technical assistance and information exchange. Target audiences for training are interpreters, education specialists, cultural resource specialists, archeologists, museum specialists, and resource managers. The tuition is $200.

For further information, nomination forms, and agenda updates, see class web page at http://www.nps.gov/history/seac/course-of-study/MEVE-440workshop09_web/
For more information contact John Jameson (NPS) at (850) 580-3011 ext. 243, Rosemarie Salazar (NPS) at (970) 529-4629 or Megg Heath (BLM) (970) 882-6855.

History Program Posts Archeology Reports
Four NPS archeology reports have been added to the NPS History Program web site.
National Register Highlights Archeology During August
The National Register of Historic Places has developed a new web page devoted to archeology. The aim with this feature is to promote understanding of this significant resource type in the National Register, encourage readers to think more about archeology and its significance, and introduce the ways that the Register and other National Park Service programs preserve these exceptional resources.

Five thumbnail sketches represent some different types of archeological listings in the National Register. The brief descriptions illustrate why each site is worthy of preservation and listing, and how it exemplifies the many important contributions of archeology to our collective past. The highlighted sites are the Greenfield Man Mound, Sauk, Wisconsin, originally discovered in 1859, and now part of a Wisconsin State Park; the Portland, Massachusetts shipwreck, discovered in 1989 in deep water off the coast of Rhode Island; Camp Nelson, Kentucky, significant at a national level as a Civil War site for the many critical functions it provided for the Union war effort and for the role it played in the freedom of Kentucky's enslaved population; a Native American Canoe site, Florida, with over 200 examples of Native American canoes; and a tenant farm in Connecticut, dating to the late 19th – early 20th century.

To read the site descriptions, go to http://www.nps.gov/history/NR/feature/archeology/index.htm

Projects in Parks: The French Along the Northeast Coast—1604-1607
From 1604 to 1607, a French expedition explored the southeastern Canadian and New England coasts, ranging as far south as Cape Cod. The Frenchmen encountered many Native people throughout the region. Some of the interactions were peaceful, others were violent. The first winter base for this expedition is now within the boundary of Saint Croix Island IHS, a unit of the National Park system. One of the Native American settlements to be visited is located within the present boundaries of Cape Cod National Seashore. Archeological data, written accounts, drawings, and maps from the French reports of the exploration provide a wealth of information about the Native people, their ways of life, and their settlements. The nature of the interactions between Europeans and Native Americans at contact established patterns that were to continue throughout the colonial era in New England.

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 web page on InsideNPS. The full reports are available on the Projects in Parks web page inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=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.