



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



December 2009 Archeology E-Gram

Janet Snyder Matthews Leaving NPS

After six years of serving the NPS as Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Janet Snyder Matthews, resigned on December 11. As Associate Director and Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, Matthews produced a new programmatic agreement for compliance with National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. Under her directorship, the number of National Historic Landmarks reached 2,461 and the number of properties listed in the National Register came to 85,001. Matthews' accomplishments include working with colleagues within and outside of the NPS to confirm the significance of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the first national water trail, and accelerating the digitization of the National Register.

Carol Shull Interim Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

Carol Shull, NPS Chief of Heritage Education Services, has been designated the interim Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), following the resignation of Janet Snyder Matthews. The National Register, where Shull has been a leader for more than 30 years, is known worldwide as a model for engaging citizens to value and preserve significant historic places in their communities. The register now lists more than 1.5 million historic properties, with the vast majority added to the inventory under Shull's tenure, first as Chief of Registration, then as Keeper of the National Register prior to Matthews.

Shull began working in the NPS National Register office as a historian in 1972. Through 30-plus years of expanding and maintaining the Register, she realized the importance not only of documenting, cataloging and protecting our historic places, but also of bringing their history to life for students, community members, and others. To this end, Shull initiated a *Discover Our Shared Heritage* travel itinerary series and worked with partners nationwide to develop dozens of itineraries that shine a spotlight on historic places, enhance visitor experiences, and provide communities with a guide to their own local history. There are currently 49 itineraries, available at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/index.htm>.

Shull also developed a program and supported others to produce to date 138 award-winning *Teaching with Historic Places* lesson plans at <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/> that encourage place-based learning at historic sites. Merging history with technology, Shull ensured that these lesson plans and the travel itineraries are available for free on the National Park Service Web site. In fact, the entire National Register will soon be online thanks in part to Shull, who initiated the effort to digitize National Register documentation.

To learn more about the National Register of Historic Places, go to <http://www.nps.gov/nr/>

To learn more about archeological sites in *Teaching with Historic Places* lesson plans, see the September 2007 Archeology E-Gram.

To learn more about archeological sites in *Discover Our Shared Heritage* travel itineraries, see the December 2007 Archeology E-Gram

Exhibit on Lenape Indians opens at Ellis Island NM

When Henry Hudson arrived 400 years ago in what was to become known as New York Harbor, he did not find a landscape devoid of human beings. He discovered a people – the Lenape – as well as a place. “Lenape: Ellis Island's First Inhabitants” at Ellis Island NM tells the story of these Native Americans from pre-contact through the 21st century as it explores their language, culture, and religious traditions. The exhibit integrates prehistoric artifacts, books, maps, archival photographs, traditional Lenape clothing and crafts, ceremonial

objects, paintings and dioramas, sculptures, and documentary films to create a historical narrative. Museum staff worked with exhibit curator David M. Oestreicher to design and develop the exhibit, and incorporated suggestions from the Native American Delaware Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

For more information about Ellis Island NM, go to www.nps.gov/elis/index.htm

Sitka NP to sponsor Conference

Until the U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867, the Russian empire owned this part of North America. For nearly 100 years, the Russians called Sitka their Alaskan capital. Celebrating this aspect of Sitka's past, on August 18-22, 2010, Sitka NHP and the International Association of Specialists on the Study of Russian America will co-sponsor the 4th International Conference on Russian America, at Sitka. The conference follows those held in Sitka in 1979 and 1987 and in Irkutsk, Russia in 2007. A formal call for papers will be issued soon.

Links to more information may be found at www.nps.gov/sitk/anniversary-august-2010.htm

Save America's Treasures Grant Program Announces \$9.5 Million in Awards

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) and the NPS has jointly announced the awarding of \$9.5 million in Federal competitive Save America's Treasures (SAT) grants, which are made in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). With these funds, 41 organizations and agencies will conserve significant U.S. cultural and historic treasures that illustrate, interpret, and are associated with events, ideas, and individuals that contribute to our nation's history and culture. The projects address the preservation needs of the structures, places, documents, artistic works and artifacts that are deemed most significant, including a rare window on a lost Native American culture that is revealed in 18th century Friendly Association Papers. These funds ensure that cultural and historic legacies can be experienced by the next generation of artists, scholars, students, and citizens.

The evaluation and recommendation of awards is carried out by an innovative interagency collaboration of NEA, NEH, and IMLS and the NPS, which administers the program in collaboration with the President's Committee. To maximize private investment and support for these efforts, the program's private partner, Save America's Treasures at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, helps projects secure the required private match, and offers their assistance to a host of SAT grantees and preservation projects all across the country.

SAT received 402 grant applications from eligible Federal agencies; state, local, and tribal governments; and nonprofit organizations in 2009. In the decade since SAT was established, 1173 grants (594 earmarks and competitive grants) have been awarded to preserve nationally significant and endangered historic buildings, structures, places, collections, artifacts and artistic works. To date, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Midway Island have received grants.

Additional information on the SAT program can be found on the PCAH Web site at www.pcah.gov and the NPS Web site at www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/

President Obama Establishes Federal Consultation Accountability

President Obama signed a memorandum that charges executive departments and agencies with engaging in regular and meaningful consultation with Native American tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications, pursuant to Executive Order 13175 "Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments." The Obama Administration is committed to regular and meaningful

consultation and collaboration with tribal officials, and directs each agency head to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) within 90 days of November 5, 2009, a detailed plan of actions that the agency will take to implement the policies and directives of E.O. 13175. Agency heads are directed to submit to OMB, within 270 days and annually thereafter, a progress report on the status of each action included in its plan together with any proposed updates to the plan. The Director of OMB will compile and submit a report on the implementation of E.O. 13175 within one year.

To read the full memorandum, go to www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/memorandum-tribal-consultation-signed-president

Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory Launches Archeobotanical Webpage

The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory announces a webpage and database devoted to the climate-induced environmental changes that have occurred in the Chesapeake Bay region over the last 20,000 years. The project uses botanical data from archeological sites to track how plant communities have changed over this time. Lab staff, archeobotanist Justine McKnight, and Martin Gallivan, archeologist and professor of Anthropology at the College of William and Mary, created a database of microscopic pollen, phytoliths, seeds, nuts, and other charred plant remains from 90 archeological sites spanning 12,000 years. The webpage hosts a searchable online database of paleobotanical data, site descriptions, and a summary of environmental change. The database will be useful to scholars developing contexts for interpreting plant remains found on newly excavated archeological sites, and also to researchers focused on environmental changes.

To access the data base, go to www.jefpat.org/archeobotany/Home.aspx. For more information, contact Patricia Samford, (410) 586-8551.

NPS Offers Training on NRHP and NHL Program at SHA Conference

The NPS National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Program will offer a workshop at the 2010 Society for Historical Archeology Conference (SHA). “Archeology and the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Program” will be held on January 6, 2010. This 3-hour workshop familiarizes archeologists with procedures for documenting information, including site and district nomination forms; historic context; multiple property designation forms; and theme studies. Participants will discuss the application of National Register and NHL criteria when evaluating archeological sites and will consider the advantages of listing properties in the National Register and/or designating properties as NHLs, archeological sites from the recent past, the significance of redundant resources, and using the National Register and NHL Program as preservation tools.

For more information and to sign up for the workshop, go to <http://www.sha.org/>

NPS and State Historical Society of North Dakota Offer Archeological Prospection Workshop

The NPS workshop on archeological prospection techniques “Current Archeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century” will be held May 24-28, 2010, at the Knife River Indian Villages NHS near Stanton, North Dakota. The park preserves historic and archeological remains of the 18th and 19th century culture and agricultural lifestyle of the Northern Plains Indians. This will be the 20th year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archeological resources across this nation. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with hands-on use of the equipment in the field.

For further information and to register, go to www.nps.gov/history/mwac/ or contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, NPS, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508-3873; tel: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141.

National Preservation Institute Offers Training

The National Preservation Institute (NPI), a nonprofit organization founded in 1980, offers training in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage. NPI, in cooperation with the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Alexandria, Virginia; Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona; Public History Program, Department of History, Arizona State University; Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and; Arizona State Parks is offering two training session in March 2010.

Conservation Strategies for Archeologists Tucson, AZ - March 15-16, 2010

This course will review the role of archeological conservation in the field and in the laboratory; discuss planning and preparation for the care of excavated materials, and potential conditions of materials upon excavation and “first aid” packing and transport methods for artifacts from both dry and waterlogged contexts. Participants will examine artifact preservation and methods to facilitate interpretation and learn how to perform simple stabilization techniques such as dewatering waterlogged bone, removing chlorides from objects, consolidating highly degraded glass, and mending vessels.

Archeological Curation and Collections Management Tucson, AZ - March 17-19, 2010

Become familiar with principles and methods for curation and management of archeological collections. Topics will include responsibilities under Federal regulations (36 CFR Part 79) and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); archeological standards; collections policies; costs of curation; storage facilities; proper housing of collections; archeological laboratory procedures; cataloguing systems and; educating the public with archeological collections.

Agendas are available online at www.npi.org. For further information and to register, go to www.npi.org/register.html. The 2009/2010 NPI News Release includes the calendar and seminar descriptions www.npi.org/NewsRelease2009/10.pdf.

NPS and FLETC to Offer ARPA Training at Volcanoes NP

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) and NPS are co-sponsoring “Archeological Resources Protection Training Program” (XP-ARPTP-004) at Hawaii Volcanoes NP, on February 8-12, 2010. This 37-hour course provides training in all aspects of an archeological investigation and prosecution. The class culminates in a 12-hour archeological crime scene practical exercise where law enforcement officers and archeologist work as a team to investigate and document a crime scene. Attendees will gather and process physical evidence, write incident reports, executive summaries, search warrants, damage assessments, and provide testimony in a courtroom scenario. This training is open to all law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and Federal archeologists.

NPS employees should contact Wiley Golden at (912) 267-2246 for registration. Other Federal employees should contact their national academy representatives at FLETC to register. Contact FLETC senior instructor Charles Louke (912) 280-5188 for course information.

Federal Archeology Publications:

Footprints. In the Footprints of Squier and Davis: Archeological Fieldwork in Ross County, Ohio
Mark Lynott. NPS Midwest Archeological Center Special Report Number 5, 2009.

This volume summarizes the nature and results of recent research associated with several large earthworks sites in Ross County, Ohio, location of the former Mound City Group NM, renamed Hopewell Culture NHP after Congressional legislation authorized purchase of additional lands. These great earthworks were being steadily eroded by mechanized farming until purchase and protection. The park protects the prehistoric remains of a dynamic social and ceremonial phenomenon that flourished in the woodlands of eastern North America between 200 B.C. and A.D. 500.

Many of the mounds in Ross County were first mapped and described by E.G. Squier and E.H. Davis, and published in 1848 by the Smithsonian Institution as the first volume in the Contributions to Knowledge series. The twelve chapters in the present publication were presented in a symposium at the 68th SAA annual meeting 2003. These efforts to understand when and how these great earthworks were constructed in the Scioto River Valley are impressive, and often rely on Squier and Davis's work.

Chapters 3, 10, and 11 demonstrate the sophistication and ability of geophysical survey to map known features and to identify undetected ones. Several of the earthworks were excavated and found an intricate color pattern of deposition that utilized deliberate choice of red, brown/black, and yellow soils. Topsoil was removed before the earthworks were built, presumably to accentuate the colors. The importance of soil color in earthwork construction is intriguing. Soil color symbolism is associated with another great North American mound group. Although 500-1,000 years separate Mississippian from Hopewell culture the same energy investments in mound construction are striking.

Chapter 4 provides an answer to the enigmatic residues at Spruce Hill hilltop fort. Author Bret Ruby suggests that intense burning from ignition of wooden elements vitrified siliceous cobbles producing debris misinterpreted as cinders and "clinkers" from smelting.

Five chapters focused on identifying Hopewell settlements, which continue to elude archeologists. Only one researcher was confident in identifying a Hopewell 'hamlet.' Based on excavation results, William Dancey suggested that Hopewell people were household scale horticulturalists who relied on nuts as well as cultivated squash, goosefoot, maygrass, knotweed, and wild fauna. Excavators found a functionally and decoratively varied ceramic assemblage, including ceramics also found at earthworks loci. This last finding supports contentions of Katherine Spielmann in Chapter 12, who argues that characteristics of Hopewell craft items point to two types of production. Ceremonial or technical specialists may manufacture specific items at areas delineated by earthworks. Objects of symbolic purpose made of common materials using technologies widely available may have been manufactured within a domestic context and transported to ceremonial areas.

Message from Editorial and Production Staff of *Archeology E-Gram*

For the past five years the *Archeology E-Gram* has provided timely and useful information about training, educational resources, research, and archeological events to archeologists in the NPS, Federal agencies, and the wider archeological community. We said goodbye this year to E-Gram founder and NPS Archeology Program Manager, Frank McManamon, who retired in November.

This past year we developed nine Projects in Parks reports, and continue to give you profiles of national monuments celebrating their centennials. We've also started a feature highlighting peer reviewed Federal archeological publications. We encourage you to submit news items, training announcements, reports for Projects in Parks, report titles and summaries for "New Federal Publications," and suggestions about other topics or resources to feature.

We have thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone who contributed to the *Archeology E-Gram*. The production and editorial staff of the *Archeology E-Gram* wish you and your families all the best for the holidays and for the coming year.

Projects in Parks: List of all PiP Reports

“Projects in Parks” was inaugurated in the *Archeology E-Gram* in July 2005. These reports include geophysical investigations, metal detecting, and underwater archeology, besides excavations and survey. They help to bring archeology to the public and generate support for Federal archeology.

To date, a total of 45 “Projects in Parks” reports have been presented through the *Archeology E-Gram*. E-Gram staff support archeological park outreach by helping to develop ideas, edit text, and upload finished stories to the NPS Archeology Program website that parks can link to through their own webpages. We have developed a new listing of all PiPs, with thumbnail introductions to facilitate linking the reports to park webpages. Congratulations and thanks to the authors who worked with us to bring information about NPS archeology projects to our readers during 2009!

To access the PiP List, go to <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npsites/index.htm>

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

Contact: 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.