



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



September 2010 Archeology E-Gram

Back to School with Archeology!

The NPS has lots of great archeological learning resources for everyone headed back to class this fall. Visit the NPS Archeology Program website for a guide to links ranging from Junior Ranger programs to classroom-based curricula, as well as links to other institutions' archeology education programs. In addition to web-based resources, the page encourages visiting archeology at the parks in person.

For more information, go to www.nps.gov/archeology/months/september10.htm
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Alaska High Students Participate in Dig in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

Five high school students from villages in northwest Alaska had a rare opportunity this past July to learn firsthand about the ancient people of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. Kaare Erickson, a senior in anthropology at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, also participated in the project.

Students from the villages of Shishmaref, Golovin, Stebbins, and Kotzebue excavated three house pits once inhabited by ancestors of the Inupiaq people of northern Alaska. The high school students were paired with college students from the University of California, Davis, as they learned to carefully excavate within the whalebone and driftwood structures situated on the sandy beach ridges of Cape Espenberg. Elders from Shishmaref, who joined the field party, contributed their knowledge about the traditional ways of life on the northwest Alaska coast. Erickson's great-grandmother was born in a sod house at Cape Espenberg, which made the experience particularly meaningful for him.

This large-scale project, funded by the National Science Foundation, is addressing human responses to climate change from A.D. 800 to 1400 at Cape Espenberg. The students joined an international team of researchers, headed up by John Hoffecker, University of Colorado, Boulder, and Owen Mason, an independent archeologist from Anchorage.

For more information about Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, go to <http://www.nps.gov/bela/>

David Yubeta Announces Retirement

David "Mud Man" Yubeta has retired following 25 years of service at Tumacacori NHP, Arizona. Seeking a job with benefits, Yubeta began his career with the NPS in 1985 as a seasonal laborer at Tumacacori. He worked in a variety of positions, including a four-year stint as facility manager for the park. Since 1998, Yubeta has been the Tumacacori's exhibits specialist and responsible for the historic preservation program.

Widely recognized for his expertise in adobe, lime plaster, and earthen architecture, Yubeta was often called upon to provide assistance to other NPS areas and other agencies, and state and municipal parks in the United States and Mexico. He also served as an instructor at Albright, HPTC, and Snow College, Utah. In addition, Yubeta played a key role in the vision for, and the creation of, the NPS Vanishing Treasures program.

Yubeta has received numerous awards for his outstanding contributions to historic preservation. In 1993, he received the Arizona Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. He received the Maintenance Advisory Committee Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Preservation of Resources in 1996. In 1998, Yubeta was the recipient of the NPS Appleman-Judd Awards for Historic Preservation. That same year he was also recognized for his work in Mexico with an award from INAH, Sonora, Mexico. Yubeta has twice, in 2002 and in 2006, been given the National 'Windows on the Past' Award by the U.S. Forest Service.

Yubeta's friends and colleagues wish him the very best for his retirement.

For more information about Yubeta's work, go to "Of Adobe, Lime, and Cement: The Preservation History of the San José de Tumacácori Mission Church: Part 1-3," E-Gram Project in Parks September-November 2008, at www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/tumacacori1.htm, and www.nps.gov/tuma/

NPS National Register of Historic Places Celebrates Archeology Month

The NPS National Register celebrated Archeology Month in August 2010 with an online feature highlighting archeological sites on the Register. The online feature explored the culture and history of the American Indians who dwelt in northwest Iowa from A.D. 1100-1250. Two sites explored in depth are Kimball Village, which provides a view of a domesticated landscape previously unknown in the history of the Prairie-Plain American Indians, and the West Oak Forest Earthlodge Site, which gives clues about the earth lodge-dwelling hunters and farmers who lived during the 10-14th centuries A.D. in what are today Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. The larger themes of these cultures are explored in "Archeological Resources of the Central Plains Tradition in the Loess Hills Region of Iowa, Multiple Property Submission (MPS)" and the "Archeological Resources of Initial Variant of the Middle Missouri Tradition in Iowa Multiple Property Submission (MPS)." The feature promotes archeological sites as significant historic properties on the National Register, and encourages the public to think more deeply about the significance of archeological properties as well as the role of the National Register and the NPS in preserving them.

More information about archeological resources in the National Register can be found online at www.nps.gov/history/nr/feature/archeology/index.htm.

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Sauk-Suiattle Tribe Retraces Ancient Travel Route

On July 26 and 27, 2010, members of the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe hiked from the Skagit Valley to Stehekin Valley in North Cascades NPS Complex. Their path followed a route over Cascade Pass, which has been used for at least 9,600 years to cross this area, the highest and most rugged segment of the Cascade Range. The crest is a divide between the traditional Northwest Coast and Columbia Plateau culture areas. "The purpose of the trip is to revitalize cultural connections with the natural environment that were historically maintained by tribal members who routinely journeyed to the east side of the Cascades to hunt, trade, and meet with relatives," said tribal chair Janice Mabee.

The Sauk-Suiattle tribal council and staff initiated planning for le[?]ibeš te hik^w ("the big walk"), as this trans-Cascade journey is called in the Coast Salish language. Council member Norma Joseph, along with tribal staff Chris Danilson and Jean Wessel, coordinated the hike with the park's wilderness and cultural staff.

The party of six tribal hikers carrying full packs – Mike Wolten, Kevin Lenon, Jaimie Kenoyer, Alan Bill, Joe Bill, and Tyler Edwards – ascended the pass. After camping the first night in the upper Stehekin Valley, the hiking party proceeded the next day to lodging in the lower Stehekin Valley, culminating the 21-mile mountain journey in a rendezvous with other tribal members and staff who had arrived via an alternate route on the Lake Chelan ferry boat.

"This event not only assists tribes in renewing traditional connections to special places in the park, it also assists in our collective work to preserve, protect and help people understand the homeland of the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe," said park superintendent Chip Jenkins.

For more information about North Cascades NPS Complex, go to www.nps.gov/noca/

NPS Awards \$2.1 million for Civil War Battlefields

Through the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), the NPS awarded over \$2.1 million in grants for land acquisition at two endangered Civil War battlefields: Spring Hill Battlefield, Tennessee, and Cold Harbor Battlefield, Virginia. Both sites are among the nation's most endangered and threatened battlefields. ABPP prioritizes funding for battlefields listed in the NPS [Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields](#). Funds are awarded based on the significance of the land to be acquired and the availability of required nonfederal matching funds.

The Tennessee Historical Commission received \$1.9 million to buy the General Motors Tract of the Spring Hill Battlefield. The fighting at Spring Hill was significant as part of the larger story of General John B. Hood's 1864 campaign in middle Tennessee and as a prelude to the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee. It set the stage for one of the worst disasters of the war for the Confederacy. On November 28, 1864, General Hood's Army of Tennessee marched toward Spring Hill with the intention of cutting off Union Major General John M. Schofield's line of retreat to Nashville. Schofield reinforced the crossroads at Spring Hill and successfully repulsed a disjointed Confederate attack, allowing him to safely move his troops.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation will use its grant of \$203,000 to acquire one parcel of the Cold Harbor Battlefield for the Central Virginia Historic Preservation Foundation Tract. The Battle of Cold Harbor was one of the bloodiest and costliest battles of the Civil War. General Ulysses S. Grant sent thousands of Union soldiers to their death in a hopeless frontal assault against fortified positions held by Confederate troops of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Union soldiers going into battle at Cold Harbor were so sure they would be killed that they wrote their names on scraps of paper and pinned them to their coats to make it possible to identify their bodies.

In FY 2010, Congress appropriated \$9 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to help nonfederal entities acquire and preserve Civil War battlefields. Already in 2010, \$7.8 million for 21 projects at 15 battlefields in 5 states has been awarded. State and local governments, or qualified nonprofit historic preservation organizations acting through an agency of state or local government, can submit proposals, which are accepted year-round and reviewed monthly or quarterly, depending on the degree of priority of the battlefield in question.

For more information about the American Battlefield Protection Program, go to www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/.

NPS Awards \$1.3 Million in Preserve America Grants Projects in 16 States

The NPS has awarded \$1.3 million in Preserve America grants to 22 projects in 16 states. Among the projects funded are: King County Heritage Barn Guide, Seattle, WA; a Heritage Design Plan for Baltimore's Carroll Park, Baltimore, MD; Austin Historical Survey Web Tool, Austin, TX; Edmonds Downtown Cultural Heritage Tour, Edmonds, WA; Montana Community Revitalization Project: Heritage Planning for the New Decade, Helena, MT; Rural Heritage Survey Phase III, Development of Farmstead Heritage Websites, Frankfort, KY; and Preserve Little Italy, San Diego, CA. Earlier this year the NPS awarded grants totaling \$2.9 million to support 31 preservation projects in 17 states.

The Preserve America grant program is administered by the NPS in partnership with the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. The competitive matching grants fund Preserve America communities, state historic preservation offices, and tribal historic preservation offices to support their preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education, and historic preservation planning.

More information on Preserve America, including the complete list of grant recipients, criteria, and application forms can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/PreserveAmerica/index.htm>.

NTHP Report on Section 106 Released

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) recently issued a report evaluating Federal agencies efforts to meet their statutory obligations to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The report, "Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act: Back to Basics," urges Federal agencies to take the mandate of Section 106 more seriously. The NTHP commissioned Leslie Barras, a lawyer and consultant on environmental and historic preservation advocacy and compliance issues, to explore and address Federal compliance with consultation obligations of Section 106. Barras concluded that, "...while the statutory and regulatory framework of Section 106 remains sound, actual implementation of this important preservation tool suffers in several key respects." Many Federal agencies recognize their responsibilities and ensure that their paperwork is managed well, but tend to apply their obligations in a "rote" manner that gives little serious consideration to planning to avoid or minimize harm to historic places. Second, other Federal agencies "do not often understand, or give only perfunctory attention to, their compliance responsibilities" under Section 106. In both cases, Barras concluded, "there is a compelling need for attention to and reinforcement of the basic purpose of the [Section 106] review and consultation process."

The report may be downloaded at: www.preservationnation.org/resources/legal-resources/understanding-preservation-law/federal-law/section-106/back-to-basics.html .

On October 18, 2010, at 2 p.m. EDT, the NTHP plans to host a "live chat" on its website "PreservationNation" with Barras, giving an opportunity to discuss her findings with her. Instructions on how to participate in the online chat will soon be posted at: www.preservationnation.org/106.

ARPA Cases in South Dakota Completed

The last of five men indicted for ARPA violations in South Dakota in 2009 was sentenced on September 13, 2010. Brian Ekrem, Richard Geffre, Elliot Hook, Scott Matteson, and John Sheild pleaded not guilty in Federal court in Pierre, South Dakota to charges that include excavating and trafficking in archeological resources and trafficking in Native American cultural resources. Over 13,300 archeological and paleontological items excavated from Federal and tribal lands along the Missouri River were confiscated.

The investigations were conducted by the FWS and the cases were prosecuted by AUSA Eric Kelderman. Sentences ranged from 8 to 10 months in prison, 12-36 months of supervised release, and up to \$20,000 in fines.

Archeologists Assessing Damage to a 1,000 Year Old Petroglyph in Northern Arizona

A hiker in August reported damage to a petroglyph at the Kaibab National Forest's Keyhole Sink, named for the keyhole-shaped lava flow. The word "ACE" is written in what appears to be white paint over the rock art. Kaibab archeologist Neil Weintraub said that it is often difficult to catch those responsible for defacing petroglyphs. "This senseless act not only damaged the fragile rock art, it degraded a special place enjoyed by several thousand visitors each year."

Keyhole Sink is one of the only sites in northern Arizona where hikers can learn about petroglyphs. The prehistoric cultural group most likely to have made the petroglyphs is the Cohonina, potentially ancestors of the Hopi, Hualapai, and Havasupai tribes. The bear paws, snakes, and lizards in the rock art panel are similar to Hopi clan symbols. The panel also depicts a hunting scene. The national forest offered guided tours during Archeology Month in March to see the petroglyphs.

The lava flow was also defaced four years ago when vandals scratched names on it, which later were rubbed out. Weintraub said the petroglyphs were not affected. The petroglyphs are protected under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. If the damage is more than \$500, the penalty for a first offense is up to two years in prison and \$20,000 in fines. A second offense carries penalties of up to five years in prison and \$100,000 in fines.

100th Anniversary of the Big Burn

August 20-21, 2010, marked the 100th anniversary of the Big Burn, record-setting fires that destroyed between 40-50 million acres in the west. In the spring of 1910, a La Nina drought created prime conditions for wildfires that burned off and on throughout the summer. These conditions changed on August 20, when strong winds fanned fires that then raced through forests in Idaho and Montana.

Wallace, Idaho, which was in the path of the moving wildfire during the Big Burn, commemorated the event with a parade and speakers. Wallace was the home of Edward Pulaski, who invented the quintessential fire-fighting tool that bears his name. A U.S. Forest Service employee, Pulaski fought fires during the summer of 1910, and survived the Big Burn by herding his men into a mining shaft when the fire storm occurred.

Over 100 people died in the fire, including many firefighters. Congress, impressed by the heroism and dedication of U.S. Forest Service rangers who fought the fire, doubled the budget of the young agency. A national Forest Service firefighter program was established less than a year later that served as a prototype for fire fighting programs in other Federal agencies. The Weeks Act, passed in early 1911, also allowed the Federal government to establish forest reserves in the East, by purchasing private lands to add to the public sector.

Among these legacies of the Big Burn was a Federal fire code that stressed that all wildfires must be extinguished as quickly as possible, a policy that is only recently being re-assessed in the face of present climate change. The protection of cultural and natural resources has also become an integral part of strategies for fighting wildfires throughout Federal agencies. Archeologists work closely with park Fire Management Programs to protect archeological resources during wildfires.

For more information about the Big Burn, visit the 1910 Fire Commemoration website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/1910-centennial/index.html>

Projects in Parks: The Ceramics Assemblage from the Kingsley Plantation Slave Quarters

By Karen McIlvoy

For the past four years, a University of Florida field team has conducted archeological excavations at Kingsley Plantation, located in the NPS Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve in Duval County, Florida. Kingsley Plantation was active in the early 19th century. The excavations have focused primarily on the slave quarters from the period in an attempt to reconstruct the daily lives of their inhabitants. The report describes the ceramics assemblage recovered from the Kingsley Plantation Slave Quarters and compares it to the archetypal antebellum plantation of Cannon's Point Plantation, GA. The basic analysis of the ceramic artifacts is a fundamental first step in the broader goal of interpreting the role of material objects in the slaves' daily lives.

Read the full report at www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/kingsleyCeramics.htm

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 *Research in the Parks* web page www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.htm or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram*. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* web page 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 NPS 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 NPS Archeology Program web site.

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.