December 2013 Archeology E-Gram

**NPS Team Studies Historic Sod House**
Staff from Homestead National Monument of America and the NPS Midwest Archeological Center visited a historic sod house in Custer County, Nebraska, in mid-November. The NPS staff joined scholars and students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, the Nebraska State Historical Society, media representatives, and members of the general public to examine the house.

The home was built in 1903 by homesteader Eugene Chrisman. The remaining sections of the walls and fragments of additional materials afforded a unique opportunity to collect valuable samples for research. A four by eight-foot section of one of the standing walls was cut away from the rest of the house and sent for study in Lincoln. Researchers intend to germinate the century-old seeds of native grasses preserved in the sod and analyze the soil in an effort to see what preserved this structure for so long. Other researchers compiled a three-dimensional model of the house using laser imaging technology. Archeologists surveyed the site for signs of other historic structures or artifacts.

Researchers inspect the remains of the sod house (NPS photo)

**A Homestead NM park ranger and a historian documented the event and gathered information that will allow them to better understand and interpret the history, construction, and role of sod houses in the early homesteading era. The park was given three sod bricks to add to the National Homesteading Museum’s permanent collection.**

*By Blake Bell and Molly Watters*

For more information about Homestead National Monument, go to [http://www.nps.gov/home/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/home/index.htm)

**Cannon Returned To Saratoga National Historical Park**

The last of three known surviving brass six-pound cannons from British General Burgoyne’s artillery train in the Revolutionary War Battle of Saratoga, has been returned to the battlefield. Two had known locations -- one was in Ohio, the other in Illinois. The third had been missing for over 50 years.

In 2008, while the Ohio cannon was on loan to Saratoga NHP, Ranger Joe Craig overheard a visitor comment about seeing a cannon “just like this one” in a private museum in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. That began a four-year quest by Park Curator Christine Valosin to research the cannon and establish critical connections with several outside agencies, including the Department of the Army.

The park management team, under Christine’s lead, worked to bring the cannon back to where it was surrendered. This odyssey culminated on November 15, 2013, with an unveiling ceremony in the park.
Surrendered to American forces after the Battles of Saratoga in 1777, along with the rest of Burgoyne’s artillery, the cannon is believed to have been used by the U.S. Army during the remainder of the American Revolution and possibly in the War of 1812. By the early 20th century, the cannon was on display in Brooklyn’s Prospect Park, site of the 1776 Battle of Long Island.

Purchased in the 1970s by what is now known as the Westervelt Company, it was exhibited in Alabama’s Tuscaloosa Museum of Art. In a recent partnered agreement between the Tuscaloosa Museum of Art, Westervelt Company and the U.S. Army, the cannon was returned to the U.S. Army with their approval to place it on long-term display at Saratoga NHP.

By Chris Valosin

For more information about Saratoga NHP, go to http://www.nps.gov/sara/index.htm

Group Encourages People to Adopt Cannons at Forts Where Civil War Began
The Fort Sumter-Fort Moultrie Trust has started an Adopt-A-Cannon drive to help the NPS conserve the guns at Fort Sumter and at nearby Fort Moultrie. Earlier this year, the NPS finished conserving 10 large siege and garrison guns, some of which were used by Confederates to lob shells from Fort Moultrie into Fort Sumter in 1861 when the Civil war erupted. That conservation work was done under a multi-year, $900,000, agreement between the NPS and the Clemson University Restoration Institute. Help is now needed for remaining guns. The trust hopes to achieve a goal of $50,000. The fund drive will raise money just to conserve the barrels. Adding new carriages, some of which are wood, will require thousands more.

Conservators are using a new high-tech method of conserving guns at Fort Moultrie. The method uses water heated to about 300 degrees sprayed at high pressure — 3,000 pounds per square inch or about twice the pressure of a commercial pressure washer— to peel off layers of paint applied to the barrels over the years. Liisa Nasanen, a conservator from the Clemson institute, is using the method on a gun dating to 1830. She said about 12 coats of paint had been applied over the years. Before the new method, gun barrels would have to be lifted by a crane and taken offsite to be sandblasted. Now the conservation can be done on site. The machine is the only one being used in the United States, said Rick Dorrance, chief of resource management at the Fort Sumter National Monument.

The Fort Sumter-Fort Moultrie Trust assists the NPS in education, preservation and staging commemorations.

By Bruce Smith, Associated Press

For more information about Fort Sumter National Monument, go to http://www.nps.gov/fosu/index.htm

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Publishes E-Book
What was life like at the Army's Fort Vancouver and Vancouver Barracks in Washington State in the mid-to-late 1800s? What went on there, and how did it compare to other places? What role do tangible items in historical archives, museum collections, and archeology play in helping us understand our country’s past? In Revealing Our Past: A History of Nineteenth Century Vancouver Barracks through 25
Objects, the Fort Vancouver NHS 2013 Public History Field School seeks to answer these questions and also illustrate the national significance of Vancouver Barracks.

In partnership, Portland State University, the Oregon Encyclopedia, the Oregon Historical Society, the McMenamin family, Fort Vancouver NHS, and graduate students enrolled in the recent Public History Field School at Fort Vancouver use objects to explore and connect readers to the daily life of soldiers, civilians and families at the region's 19th century Army post.

His work on the book garnered Greg Shine, Fort Vancouver NHS Chief Ranger and Historian, the NPS Pacific West Region’s Freeman Tilden Award for his work to conceive, plan, help create, and guide the digital eBook to publication. The Freeman Tilden Award recognizes an individual who has successfully developed, revitalized, or delivered a specific interpretive or education program or project in a particularly effective and creative fashion. This is the highest NPS award a field interpreter can receive.

The book is available in several formats. A standard version of the book is available as a downloadable .PDF file. Click here to access a 28 MB .pdf file of the book. An enhanced version of the book--with video, external links, enhanced images, and interactive historic artwork--is available as a free download on Apple's iBookstore through iTunes. Search iTunes for Revealing Our Past or click here to access the book in iTunes.

University of Montana Publishes Second of Two Volumes on Yellowstone Archeology

The University of Montana Anthropology Department has published the second of two volumes devoted to the archeology of Yellowstone NP. The first (Volume 13(1)) is devoted to archeological investigations in the northern region of the park, concentrating on the Gardiner Basin. The majority of the 10 papers in this volume report on research done through MYAP, the Montana Yellowstone Archaeological Project. The project was funded by the park, the University of Montana, and the Rocky Mountain CESU.

Yellowstone Archaeology, Volume 2 focuses on the southern part of the park. The 14 papers in this publication present the results of many years of research around Yellowstone Lake. This volume is notable for the breadth of topics addressed, ranging from lake level history to geological descriptions of Obsidian Cliff obsidian.

MOU Signed between Tribes, Federal Agencies and the State for Reburial of Native American Human Remains in Colorado

On December 13, 2013, representatives from Federal agencies, the State of Colorado, the Ute Mountain Ute, and Southern Ute tribes signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to seek locations for
reburying Native American human remains whose origin is not known, following repatriation under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The MOU does not change existing law or agency policies concerning reburials and only applies within the State of Colorado.

NAGPRA does not address reburial following repatriation or disposition. Many land-managing Federal agencies adopted policies or practices allowing the reburial of Native remains found on their lands in other locations on their lands. The State of Colorado set aside lands for reburial several years ago through a state-specific protocol. These policies and practices, however, were not adequate for more than 600 Native remains from within the State lacking specific site origin information. Most Federal agencies’ policies do not provide for reburials of Native remains from unknown locations and museums retaining human remains rarely have land for reburials. Tribes are often unable to rebury on their own lands.

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Southern Ute Tribe, both from southwestern Colorado, brought this situation to the attention of the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs. The Commission formed the Colorado Reinterment and Repatriation Workgroup (Workgroup) in 2011, consisting of representatives from the two Tribes, NPS, FWS, BLM, USFS, State agencies, and Colorado-based museums and universities. The Workgroup developed and signed the agreement that commits the signatories to collaborating on finding solutions for reburial within the State.

Members of the Workgroup have briefed the NAGPRA Review Committee (Review Committee). The issue of lands for reburial has been included in the Review Committee’s annual report to Congress multiple times. Staff of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, History Colorado and NPS volunteered to assemble information about other Federal and state reburial policies. The writers expect to present the draft report to the Review Committee for comment at its March meeting.

The signing event was organized by the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs (Commission).

NPS Wildland Fire Management Program Seeking Input
You might think, as a cultural resource professional, that you have little interaction with the NPS Wildland Fire Management Program, but nothing could be further from the truth! If you live, work, or play in an area which has the potential to be affected by wildland fire activity, then the NPS Wildland Fire Management program invites you to review and comment on the NPS Wildland Fire Strategic Plan.
2014-2019. Ensuring that cultural resources are considered in planning for, responding to, and recovering from wildland fires is an important parameter of a Federal wildland fire program.

Recognizing that the NPS will be entering its second century in 2016, the *NPS Call to Action* and the intergovernmental “National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy” ([http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/](http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/)) provides background intent for the wildland fire strategic plan. The 2014-2019 *Wildland Fire Strategic Plan* reflects innovative thinking within and external to the NPS.

The goal of Wildland Fire Management program staff across the nation is to collaborate with other NPS programs, as well as fire management partners and adjacent communities, to manage wildland fire across landscapes. The most successful programs in the NPS are those where the wildland fire program is integrated with all aspects of the park’s operations. The plan is designed as a tool for superintendents, program managers and fire staff to facilitate planning and prioritize work in order to safely manage wildland fire. As a dynamic tool, the plan defines the What, Who and How for future implementation.

The all-inclusive 45-day comment period, ends January 15, 2014. Anyone interested or engaged in wildland fire has the opportunity to read and provide comments and suggestions to the draft plan. After the comment period closes, all suggestions will be reviewed and discussed by the task group before a final plan is developed for review and approval.

At 12 pages, the plan is open for review at: [http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Wildland_Fire_Strategic_Plan](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Wildland_Fire_Strategic_Plan). To comment, login to the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment System (PEPC): [http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Wildland_Fire_Strategic_Plan](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Wildland_Fire_Strategic_Plan).

*By Bill Kaage*

**NPS Museum Program Launches Facebook Page**

The NPS Museum Program has launched a Facebook page to bring the remarkable NPS collections to a wider audience. The site features images and information as diverse as the Eisenhowers’ Thanksgivings, Civil War photos, and Navajo baskets from Hubbell Trading Post NHS.

The NPS Museum Management Program develops policies, procedures, web exhibits and curriculum that reflect over 360 park museums nationwide.

For more information, go to [www.nps.gov/museum](http://www.nps.gov/museum), or search NPS collections at [http://museum.nps.gov/ParkIndex.aspx](http://museum.nps.gov/ParkIndex.aspx) or visit the program on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/NPSmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/NPSmuseum).

**Site Stewardship Volunteer Receives Honor from BLM, Wyoming SHPO**

Cody resident Michael Neville was recently honored by the BLM Cody Field Office and the Wyoming SHPO for volunteering 150 hours with the Wyoming Site Stewardship Program (WYSSP). Neville received the Distinguished Service Award at a meeting of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, Absaroka Chapter, on November 19, 2013.

The WYSSP, developed by the BLM and SHPO in 2006, brings together professional heritage/cultural resource specialists and trained volunteers to monitor cultural resources throughout the state. Neville’s first visit to a cultural site as a WYSSP volunteer was on June 7, 2008. Since then he has made 58 inspection trips to monitor at-risk cultural resources located throughout the Bighorn Basin.
When asked why he volunteers for the WYSSP, Neville replied, “It’s because of the appreciation I have for cultural resources, and because I want my friends and family to be able to enjoy the resources for years to come.”

Established in 2006, WYSSP is committed to protecting and preserving Wyoming's rich cultural heritage. Professional heritage/cultural resource specialists and trained volunteers work together to monitor cultural resources throughout the State, adding to the existing documentary record, sustaining a regular presence to deter looting and vandalism, and reporting these activities when they occur.

The primary purposes of WYSSP are:

- To protect and preserve prehistoric and historic cultural resources for the purposes of conservation, scientific study, interpretation, and public enjoyment.
- To increase public awareness of the significance and value of cultural resources.
- To discourage/deter site vandalism and looting.
- To assist with permanent management of monitored sites.
- To promote understanding and cooperation between the Wyoming SHPO, BLM, and the public.

To learn more about the WYSSP, visit http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us/Steward/.

from the Billings Gazette

WYSSP volunteer Michael Neville

HUD Releases Tribal Directory Assessment Tool
The Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT) Version 2.0 is a web-accessible database that contains information about federally recognized Indian tribes and their geographic areas of current and ancestral interest. TDAT links tribes' areas of interest down to the county level. It lists names and contact information for tribal leaders and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs). Users can query the database by street address, county, state, and tribe. Information generated from TDAT can be exported in spreadsheet format for use in other programs. To access the data base, go to http://egis.hud.gov/tdat/Documents/TDATUserManualV2.pdf

Congressional Bills Introduced
Two bills of interest to cultural resources specialists were introduced in December. H.R. 3687 would amend the National Historic Preservation Act to allow the head of an agency managing Federal property to object to the inclusion of certain property on the National Register or its designation as a National Historic Landmark for reasons of national security, such that the Federal property shall be neither included nor designated until the objection is withdrawn.

H.R. 3744 will provide for the compensation of Federal employees furloughed as a result of sequestration.
The Digital Archeological Record Compiles, Offers, Antiquities Act Resources
The Digital Archeological Record (TDAR), has compiled almost 50 publications about the Antiquities Act, and is offering them through a free short-term account. The Antiquities Act project includes documents related to the history and historical background of the Antiquities Act and its implementation during the century since its enactment. This collection of documents relates to the history and use of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the first Federal statute for the general preservation of archeological, cultural, historic, and scientific resources. It laid the foundation for conservation and preservation laws passed through the 20th century and remains an important statute into the 21st century. It is a wonderful resource for scholars doing research on the Antiquities Act and for students, and anyone with an interest in the Act.

To visit the TDAR website, go to http://www.tdar.org/

To learn more about the Antiquities Act, visit the NPS Archeological Program website at http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/Antiquities/index.htm

Adverse Effects to Amity Pueblo Still Unresolved
In April 2011 the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) contracted with the Northern Arizona Vocational School of Technology to excavate a fish pond near the town of Eager, in eastern Arizona. High school students operating heavy machinery destroyed domestic and mortuary contexts in a 9-acre area before being stopped 10 days into the project. The impacted habitation site, an adobe compound known as Amity Pueblo, dating to 900 AD, is eligible for the National Register.

Several Federal and state agencies were involved in the project, including the FWS, which provided funding for the fishpond proposed by the AGFD, and the Agriculture Department Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), that was lending an archeologist to the project. The NRCS archeologist recognized the presence of the pueblo, and stated in the NHPA Section 106 report to the Arizona SHPO that the construction would avoid the structural remains. The SHPO concurred with a plan that specified monitoring by an archeologist during the construction of the pond.

No archeologist or AGFD representative was on site when students from the vocational school began excavating the pond on April 27, 2011. The heavy equipment went inside barriers erected to protect the pueblo. When the NRCS archeologist visited the site on May 2, he recognized human bone and advised the machine operators to stop construction. When representatives from the Zuni, Hopi, and Acoma Pueblos; and the Navajo Nation visited the site more than a year later on November 29, 2012, they found human remains scattered across the surface of the site.

To date, an MOA to resolve the adverse effects caused by the fishpond project has not been finalized. Kurt Dongoske, lead archeologist for the Zuni Pueblo, sent a letter to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, protesting the lack of resolution on October 31, 2013. On November 12, 2013, SAA president Jeffrey Altschul sent a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, requesting consulting party status in consultations to reach a MOA for the project. On November 14, the nonprofit Arizona Archaeological Council also sent a letter to Secretary Jewell, similarly urging action to resolve the situation.

Departmental Consulting Archeologist Stanley Bond is preparing a briefing paper for the Secretary.

For more information, go to http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/12/11/tribes-archaeologists-petition-government-over-amity-pueblo-desecration-152663
ACHP 2014 Section 106 Training Schedule
The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has released the 2014 schedule for National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 training.

The Section 106 Essentials
This two-day course is designed for those who are new to Federal historic preservation compliance or those who want a refresher on the Section 106 regulations. Through small and large group discussions and a case study, participants learn how to carry out or participate in the four-step process through which federal agencies fulfill their project planning review requirements under NHPA, which apply any time a Federal, federally assisted, or federally approved activity might affect a historic property.

March 11-12 Washington, DC – National Building Museum
May 20-21 Salt Lake City, UT - Radisson Salt Lake City Downtown
June 10-11 Washington, DC – National Building Museum
August 19-20 Albuquerque, NM – Hotel Albuquerque
September 9-10 Washington, DC – National Building Museum
September 16-17 Oakland, CA – Washington Inn
November 11-12 Savannah, GA - NTHP Annual Conference

Advanced Section 106 Seminar
The seminar focuses on the effective management of complex or controversial undertakings that require compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. Taught in a smaller, interactive setting, the course encourages group discussion and problem solving. Designed for experienced Section 106 users who are familiar with the regulations, the curriculum focuses on the challenges of seeking consensus, resolving adverse effects to historic properties, and preparing agreement documents. Class is limited to 25 participants.

March 13 Washington, DC – National Building Museum
April 8 Atlanta, GA – Fairfield Inn
May 22 Salt Lake City, UT- Radisson Salt Lake City Downtown
July 22 Washington, DC – National Building Museum
August 21 Albuquerque, NM – Hotel Albuquerque

The ACHP is a Certification Maintenance (CM) Provider for the American Planning Association/American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) for the The Section 106 Essentials (12 CM) and The Advanced Section 106 Seminar (6 CM) and registered with the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/CES) for The Section 106 Essentials (12 LUs).

Looking for Section 106 topical training in less time? Try the ACHP webinar series: www.achp.gov/sec106webinar.html.

Complete information and registration procedures can be found at www.achp.gov/106.

Contact: Cindy Bienvenue, Meeting and Event Manager, at 202-606-8521.

Yosemite National Park Offers Wildland Fire Resource Advisor Training
This course provides participants with the foundation to serve as Resource Advisors (READs) during wildland fire incidents. READs work with fire managers to convey concerns about natural, cultural and
wilderness resources. The objectives of this course are to improve communication between READs and fire managers, present the rationale for prioritizing and determining an appropriate response to those resource issues, demonstrating how READs can contribute to the management of an incident, and provide expectations of professional READs.

Using a scenario-based format, the course focuses on roles and responsibilities, but provides participants with strategies and tools for evaluating specific resource concerns. Information is presented in sufficient detail to serve as a refresher for present resource advisors and general enough to be useful for those who have never served in this capacity. Much of the information can be applied in the All-Hazard, or All Risk READ environment as well. The third day begins with resource-specific presentations and concludes with an afternoon field trip to a past incident.

A fireline-qualified Resource Advisor holds a valid Red Card and passes the physical test at the arduous level. The local Fire Management Officer will authorize the inclusion of “READ” as a qualification on the Red Card. Completion of these tasks is not required prior to participating in this course. The course is also valuable for those managing resources on public lands, but with no interest in serving as READs, to become familiar with fire management organizations and the types and formats of resource data that benefit the READ during the course of his or her duties.

The course will be held March 25-27, 2014, at the Yosemite NP Administrative Complex in El Portal, CA. Directions and logistics information will be provided upon selection for the course. The course will begin promptly at 0800 and will continue until 1700. While the course has no tuition fee, the participant’s home unit(s) must cover travel expenses.

Submit nominations or questions via e-mail to Jun Kinoshita, (209) 379-1317.

**Projects in Parks: Message from Staff of the Archeology E-Gram**
For the past nine years the Archeology E-Gram has provided timely and useful information about training, educational resources, research, and archeological events to archeologists in the NPS, other Federal agencies, and the wider archeological community.

This year we posted three Projects in Parks reports: The Montana-Yellowstone Archeological Project at Yellowstone Lake, Biscayne National Park: Solving the Mystery of the English China Wreck, and Archeology at the Kuka'iwa'a Landshelf, Kalaupapa NHP.

We have thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone who contributed to the Archeology E-Gram, and send a big thank you to our 2013 interviewees – Pei Lin Yu, Vergil Noble, Elaine Hale, and John Knoerl. We wish John all the best in his coming retirement, and look forward to more interviews with NPS archeologists.

The staff of the Archeology E-Gram wish you and your families all the best for the coming year.

**Slightly Off-Topic: Janet Stephens, Hairdressing Archeologist**
By day, Janet Stephens is a hairdresser at a Baltimore, Maryland, salon. By night, she re-creates the hairstyles of ancient Rome and Greece. Stephens is a hairdo archeologist and her scholarship is sticking a pin in long-held assumptions among historians about the complicated, gravity-defying hair styles of ancient times.
Stephens’ coiffure queries began in the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore in 2001, when she wondered how the elaborate hair style featured in a marble bust of the Roman empress Julia Domna was constructed. Turning to history books for clues, Stephens learned that scholars believed the elaborate towering and braided styles of the day were wigs. She didn't buy that. Through trial and error she found that she could achieve the hairstyle by sewing the braids and bits together, using a needle and thread.

She began to look for references to stitching and, in 2005, she had a breakthrough. Studying translations of Roman literature, she realized the Latin term "acus" was probably misunderstood in the context of hairdressing. Acus has several meanings, including a "single-prong hairpin" or "needle and thread." Translators generally went with "hairpin." The single-prong pins couldn't have held the intricate styles in place, but a needle and thread could. It backed up her hair hypothesis.

In 2007, she sent her findings to the Journal of Roman Archaeology. John Humphrey, the journal's editor, said "I could tell even from the first version that it was a very serious piece of experimental archeology which no scholar who was not a hairdresser—in other words, no scholar—would have been able to write." The article “Ancient Roman Hairdressing: On (Hair)Pins and Needles” was published in 2008.

In recent years, Stephens has reconstructed on live models the styles of ancient royals, including Faustina the Younger and Empress Plotina, and Vestal Virgins. Marden Nichols, curator of ancient art at the Walters Art Museum, says Stephens is able to break new ground specifically because of her work as a stylist. "Like many classicists, I spend my days analyzing works of literature and art that relate to activities I have never performed: harvesting crops, building temples, sacrificing animals," she says. Stephens can "draw upon practical experiences."

From article by Abigail Pesta, Wall Street Journal

For full article go to http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB1000142412788732324900204578286272195339456


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 Projects in Parks web page http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.htm or through individual issues of the Archeology E-Gram.
**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](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm) on the NPS Archeology Program website.

**Contact**: Karen Mudar at [dca@nps.gov](mailto:dca@nps.gov) to contribute news items, stories for *Projects in Parks*, and to subscribe.