Archeology Program

July 2014 Archeology E-Gram

Archeologist at Independence National Historical Park Awarded Grant for Ceramics Research
Debbie Miller, archeologist at Independence NHP, has been awarded a grant from the American Ceramics Circle to study ceramic objects from the Delaware Valley, including several objects excavated from sites within the park.

Ceramics scholars have long thought that refined redware ceramics were manufactured exclusively in England, but new research suggests that 19th century potters in Philadelphia produced a variety of forms, including teapots and coffeepots, with intricate geometric decoration made on an engine-turned lathe. The grant will fund research to test the hypothesis that Philadelphia potters were indeed making this type of pottery. The study will include ceramics from archeological excavations in the park (at what is now the National Constitution Center), a site on Dock Street, ongoing excavations on I-95, as well as several past excavations in Philadelphia.

Miller will work jointly on this study with Meta Janowitz, Senior Material Analyst at URS, and Allan Gilbert, Professor of Anthropology, Fordham University. The research will be concluded by the end of 2015 and results will be published in the American Ceramics Circle Journal.

Archeological Research at Chickasaw National Recreation Area Reveals Area’s Past
The Chickasaw NRA, NPS Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC), and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln are collaborating through a Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) effort to conduct archeological investigations within the Platt Historic District of Chickasaw NRA, in Murray County, Oklahoma. The project’s goals are to gain an understanding of the cultural resources in the park by utilizing historic documents, archives, maps, soil core data, and archeological investigations; and to discover pre-contact and historic archeological resources.

This two-year project includes three field sessions. The 2014 field season focused on ground-truthing the locations of building footprints within the park, which were dated to 1885-1904 and associated with the historic town of Sulphur Springs. Sulphur Springs was relocated twice before the establishment of Platt National Park in 1906. The town was eventually moved yet a third time to its present location north of the park unit. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps worked to return the townsites to a natural setting, eliminating the most obvious evidence that a settlement had ever existed within the park.

Using historic land appraisal documents and Sanborn maps, building locations were geo-referenced and digitized in GIS and uploaded into a handheld GPS unit to allow the building sites to be relocated on the modern landscape. In many instances, depressions or foundations were found within one or two feet of the digitized historic map data. Relocation efforts were centered on two hotels, a
boarding house and several domestic dwellings. Once these foundations were relocated, surveys were conducted to collect data about artifacts in each location. Archeological remains were documented using photogrammetry, which generated 3D renderings of the foundations.

A final report will highlight the results of this and other field sessions. The project has generated significant local interest about the shared history of the park and its nearest gateway community, the current town of Sulpher Springs.


NPS Archeologists Searching for Lost 1565 French Fleet at Cape Canaveral National Seashore
Researchers have embarked on a six-week search for the lost French fleet of Jean Ribault, which sank off the Florida coast in 1565. If found, the ships will be the oldest French vessels ever discovered in the U.S. or anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere.

Under the direction of France’s King Charles IX, Ribault led a fleet of seven ships, including his 32-gun flagship, Trinité, to North America in 1565. One thousand French colonists, sailors, and troops sailed with him to bolster the French colony at Fort Caroline, near the mouth of the St. Johns River in Florida.

At the same time, Spanish explorer Pedro Menéndez de Avilés arrived in Florida intent on destroying the French enterprise. In a preemptive strike to keep Menendez from establishing a colony in St. Augustine, Ribault sailed his four largest ships southwards, only to be struck by a hurricane which scattered and wrecked his fleet. With the loss of these ships, Fort Caroline was taken, Ribault and his men were put to the sword at Matanzas Inlet, and Spain established the first permanent European settlement in the United States. Though the French fleet has never been found, artifacts from survivor camps near Cape Canaveral NS have given archeologists an indication of where to search.

The expedition is funded by partnerships between NPS, NOAA, the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, the state of Florida, the Institute of Maritime History, and the Center for Historical Archaeology. This project has been financed in part with historic preservation grant assistance provided by the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, assisted by the Florida Historical Commission and a grant from NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research. The search has been tapped as one of NOAA OER’s signature expeditions for 2014.

The NPS Southeast Archaeological Center and Submerged Resources Center is actively participating in the research. The search will be conducted from a research vessel provided by the Institute of Maritime History, and will use historical research undertaken in the French archives by the co-principal investigator John de Bry, Center for Historical Archaeology.

Information and updates will be available online at www.staugustinelighthouse.org.

From story in the Daytona Beach News Journal
For more information about the doomed French expedition in southeastern North America, read Project in Parks report “In Search of Lost Frenchmen: Archeological Investigations at Canaveral NS” at http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/canaveral.htm
Conversation with an Archaeologist: Jun Kinoshita, Yosemite National Park Fire Archaeologist

We were lucky to find fire archaeologist Jun Kinoshita at his desk; July is fire season in the West, and if he isn’t involved in fire activities in his home park, Yosemite, he is often called on to assist at fires in other national parks. Being a fire archaeologist involves balancing many responsibilities, and Jun loves it all.

There are only a few fire archaeologists in the NPS, funded by the Fire and Aviation Management Division. The Fire Management Program works to keep wildfires, a natural part of the Sierra Nevada ecosystem, manageable through mechanical fuel reduction projects and fuels treatments. Jun reviews the proposed projects and ensures that there is adequate cultural resources survey coverage (only 12 percent of the park has been surveyed for archeological resources), and that the project will be in compliance with the NHPA Section 106 process. During the wildland fire season, Jun works on the fire line as a resource advisor (READ). Post-fire monitoring is also an important component of his job.

Jun can’t remember a strong interest in archeology when he was a child, but he DOES remember wanting to be a firefighter! That changed when he attended a community college in his home town of Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. There he met a dynamic teacher who infected his students with the same strong enthusiasm about archeology. Besides taking classes from him, Jun was his field school assistant. This teacher’s support and mentoring led Jun to earn a BA in anthropology at the University of Illinois. While at the college and university, he worked for the Army Corps of Engineers, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory as an archaeologist.

While the prairies and rolling hills of Illinois were home to Jun, he wanted more complex horizons and, in 1998, entered the graduate program at Oregon State University. His thesis was a predictive model of pioneering French Canadian settlement in the Oregon’s Willamette Valley. Here he combined the fieldwork that he loved with the modeling and GIS display skills he was learning.

After grad school, Jun embarked on a career as a Federal archaeologist and worked four seasons as a trail archaeologist at Klondike Gold Rush NHP in Skagway, Alaska. He really liked how archeological data made its way into the interpretive programs. Right around the time that his coursework at OSU was completed, a fire archaeologist job as Yosemite NP was advertised. Luckily, Jun had joined the Skagway Fire Department Search and Rescue team and worked on a fire in Alaska, so he was a strong candidate for the position.

I asked Jun about his biggest challenges in his early career at NPS. He laughingly said that all the acronyms were challenging to sort out, and it took a while to understand how his park was organized, the NPS was organized, and had no idea how the different bureaus worked together. He wishes that he had had an opportunity to take Fundamentals earlier in his NPS career.

Though the fire archaeologist job began as a term position, it became permanent in 2005. Jun has been successful in expanding his capacities, and his Section 106 compliance skills apply to other projects, such as construction monitoring. He also coordinates with fellow resource advisors on READ training. He and colleagues have hosted a successful READ training at Yosemite NP every year for the past 12 years. So many participants were coming from other parks and agencies to the popular training that, in 2009, the
instructors decided to take it on the road. Since then, the READ training has been held across the country, and hundreds of READS have been trained.

Recently, however, travel restrictions have prompted Jun and his co-workers to re-invent their course as webinars. It is a testament both to the quality of the course and the dedication of the participants that 120-160 people recently sat in front of their computers 4 hours a day for 3 days straight to take the training.

Jun also emphasizes the importance of professional development. In order to be a better bridge between the fire program and the cultural resources community, he decided to work on his fire qualifications. In order to do this, he decided to do…smoke jumper training (yup, smoke jumper training, sort of like Indiana Jones meets Young Men and Fire). So, in 2010, at the age of 41 and blessed with a very understanding supervisor and tolerant wife, Jun headed for Missoula, Montana, and rookie training. He said it was a lifelong dream come true. He successfully finished the training, including jumping several fires (out of a moving plane!), and established relationships that will bring cultural resource professionals and fire managers together for years. “I’ll be forever grateful to the NPS for the opportunity,” Jun says of the workforce development and Albright-Wirth Grants that allowed him to live this dream.

I asked Jun to talk about a particularly memorable project, and he recalled a prescribed burn that he worked on in Yosemite Valley. A meadow, which was used by cultural demonstrators and for traditional use, was overrun with Himalayan blackberry and encroaching pines. Jun recalled how the park brought disparate groups from the public and the park together to reach consensus and plan the burn. His efforts transformed a park project into a cultural experience grounded in a time when local tribes routinely burned the lands in Yosemite to manage deer, and plant populations. A Native American cultural demonstrator started the fire with friction, and tribal members spread the fire with pine cones, rather than a drip torch, reducing the amount of drip mix in a nearby wetland.

Has he received any awards or honors that he would like to mention? After a pause, Jun said that his greatest honors come from his colleagues and from working with the public. “When someone says about the READ course, ‘This is one of the best courses I’ve ever taken,’ Wow! That’s really huge!” And when the public walks away from an experience feeling like they’ve learned something and with a sense of ownership or responsibility, that makes Jun feel like he’s accomplished something.

He also feels fortunate to work at Yosemite NP, and enjoys its strong cultural resource program. The program is busy and has a lot going on, providing him with opportunities to learn more about federal archeology, anthropology, historic architecture and landscapes, and other facets. He’s had the opportunity to work with and learn from some great people.

What does he think that he will be doing in 10 years? Being a fire archeologist is his dream job, so it is hard for him to envision doing something radically different. He is proud to be among the dedicated people who are responsible for taking care of our nation’s resources, and it would take a really unique opportunity to lure him away from the NPS, lucky for us!

Thanks for talking to us, Jun!

Beckley Grist Mill Study Receives Additional Funding
The Beckley Historic Landmark Commission has received a $9,000 grant from the Carter Foundation and $1,000 from Robert and Margaret Sayre to support its archeological and historic study of the Beckley
Grist Mill site. The commission previously received a $15,900 Survey and Planning grant for this study from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office.

Alfred Beckley, who was the son of John Beckley, the first Clerk of Congress, built the mill along Piney Creek in 1837 to encourage settlement and economic development in what is now part of southern West Virginia. The study will be used to include the mill in a National Register multiple property listing and help Beckley develop it as a city park.

By David N. Fuerst, NPS Archeologist and Historian

For more about this project, read “NPS Archeologist at New River Gorge Nation River Helps Local Efforts to Protect Mill Site” in NPS Archeology E-Gram, April 2014 at http://www.nps.gov/archeology/pubs/egrams/1404.pdf.

Revolutionary War Cannon on Display at Fort Sumter National Monument
Fort Sumter NM has added a new cannon to its world class collection. Currently on temporary display at Fort Moultrie on Sullivan’s Island, in the field between the fort and the beach, it is the first cannon made before 1800 that will be on permanent display at the park.

The Jacksonville, Florida, Sheriff’s Department discovered the cannon in a vacant lot in 1988 and turned it over to the NPS. NPS historians researched the artillery unit and determined that it was produced between 1693 and 1722, and is similar to the type of cannon sent to South Carolina when it was a British colony in the early 1700s. Since this type of cannon may have been used at Fort Moultrie during the Revolutionary War, the NPS transferred it to Fort Sumter NM for exhibit at Fort Moultrie.

The gun has recently undergone conservation treatment by Clemson University’s Warren Lasch Conservation Center. It will eventually be permanently housed on a reproduction carriage inside the Fort Moultrie Visitor Center.

From story in The Moultrie News


Correction: In the June 2014 edition of the Archeology E-Gram, the article "Archeology Informs NHL Designation Decisions at NPS Landmarks Committee Meeting" incorrectly labeled the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site as Fort Union National Monument. The article intended to feature the national historic site in North Dakota, not the national monument in New Mexico.

Bureau of Reclamation Accused of Violating NAGPRA
An independent federal agency is calling for an investigation into allegations that BOR officials ignored a law requiring them to catalog, preserve and return human remains and relics to American Indian tribes.

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel has directed DOI to investigate whether BOR officials violated the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) while managing collections of remains and artifacts amassed during the construction and management of dams and waterways throughout California and parts of Nevada and Oregon.
A whistleblower complained that the bureau in Sacramento erased records within a DOI database and altered spreadsheets in an effort to hide mismanagement of collections under the agency’s control, resulting in hundreds of human remains and artifacts being lost, boxed up for storage or loaned to museums and universities without the ability to track them.

A filing with the Office of Special Counsel shows Patrick Williams, who worked as a museum specialist in archeology in the BOR Mid-Pacific office, raised concerns with his supervisors that the agency was not complying with the law’s requirements once it stopped keeping detailed records of remains and relics. He also said the office was not filling out the proper paperwork when loaning out artifacts, essentially making the items untraceable.

The office routinely failed to notify tribes of long-stored and newly uncovered remains and funerary objects, Williams said. Some of the collections date back to the 1970s, when the federal government was building the New Melones dam and reservoir in California.

A combination of budget cuts and the low priority assigned by bureau managers resulted in responsibilities under the law falling by the wayside, Williams said.

Following a critical report by the GAO in 2010, DOI asked for more money and at least eight years to bolster compliance with the law. The Office of Special Counsel has given DOI 60 days to investigate the allegations and report back.

*From report by Susan Montoya Bryan, Associated Press*

**Park Acquires Significant Tract at Richmond National Battlefield Park**

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell has announced an expansion of Richmond NBP’s Gaines’ Mill battlefield. The 285 acres increases more than five-fold the area preserved at Gaines’ Mill, the largest of the 1862 Seven Days’ Battles and Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s first victory as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.

The June 27, 1862, Confederate victory at Gaines’ Mill radically shifted the strategic initiative in Virginia in favor of the Confederacy. This led to the Confederacy’s first invasion of the North, culminating three months later at the Battle of Antietam.

The property was acquired for $3.2 million in 2012 by the Civil War Trust, using both privately raised funds and a matching grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The $400,000 in funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund enabled the transfer of the property to the Richmond NBP.

The acquisition builds on work undertaken by the Civil War Trust over the last decade to preserve Richmond’s Civil War battlefields, a partnership with the NPS that has seen the preservation of nearly 1,799 acres of threatened battlefields in the Richmond area.

Secretary Jewell discusses battlefield preservation issues with Richmond NBP and Civil War Trust officials (DOI photo by Tami Heilemann).
Secretary Jewell cited the Gaines’ Mill battlefield acquisition as a prime example of how the Land and Water Conservation Fund can honor our nation’s important history by preserving key Civil War battlefields and other hallowed grounds. The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established by Congress in 1964 to ensure access to outdoor recreation resources for present and future generations, and to provide money to federal, state and local governments to purchase land, water and wetlands for the benefit of all Americans. Rather than using tax money, the primary source of revenue for the Land and Water Conservation Fund is from federal oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf.

By Mike Litterst

NPS Awards $1.3 Million in Battlefield Preservation Grants

The NPS has awarded 21 preservation grants totaling more than $1.3 million to help preserve, protect, document and interpret America’s significant battlefield lands. The funding from the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) will support 27 projects at more than 75 battlefields nationwide.

This year’s grants provide funding for projects at endangered battlefields from King Philip’s War, Second Seminole War, Indian Wars, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War. Awards went to 14 states for projects entailing archeology, mapping, cultural resource survey work, documentation, planning, education and interpretation.

Winning projects include:

- an archeological survey of Fort Mercer at the site of the American Revolution Battle of Red Bank in New Jersey;
- an archeological analysis to locate and evaluate the nature and size of the Battles of Camp Izard and the Withlacoochee during the Second Seminole War in Florida;
- a Phase I archeological investigation at the Battle of Wood Lake site in the U.S.-Dakota War in Minnesota;
- identification of surviving underwater resources from both the British and American landings on Mackinac Island, Michigan, during the War of 1812;
- identification of the likely location of the Great Falls Battlefield in the King Philip's War in Massachusetts;
- and public outreach materials to support farmland preservation and economic development programs that encourage compatible land uses on and around the Civil War Battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic in Virginia.

Priority was given to those groups submitting applications for nationally significant battlefields. The majority of awards were given to battlefields listed as Priority I or II sites in the NPS Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields and the Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States.

Federal, state, local and Tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions are eligible for the battlefield grants, which are awarded annually. Since 1996, the ABPP has awarded more than $13 million to help preserve significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil.

More information is available online at [http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp](http://www.nps.gov/hps/abpp).
Talking Totem Poles: Mobile Phones Aids Sitka National Historical Park’s Interpretive Experience

When Europeans first laid eyes on indigenous coastal villages in Southeast Alaska, wooden bears and ravens unblinkingly returned their gaze from their positions on intricately carved totem poles. Traders and travelers marveled at the skillfully crafted carvings standing at the water’s edge. What do they mean? Where did they come from? If only those early mariners could have taken a Sitka NHP cell phone walking tour, many of their questions would have been answered.

In 2009, Sitka NHP Superintendent Mary A. Miller augmented the park’s ranger-led tours with a self-guided interpretive tool – cell phone walking tours. Faced with 120,000 annual park visitors, 25 totem poles to interpret, and limited staff, Miller saw an opportunity to use technology for interpretation. Five years later, more than 12,000 visitors have toured the park’s totem poles from their phones. According to statistics collected by mobile tour vendor OnCell Systems, the average tour is 44 minutes – the same length as a ranger-led program.

“The cell phone walking tour certainly isn’t intended to replace the function of our talented park rangers. Instead, it offers a flexible interpretive experience for visitors to understand and appreciate our unique cultural objects,” Miller said.

Sitka NHP’s totem pole cell phone walking tours provide an interpretive tool for visitors to use (NPS Photo)

Sitka rangers lead Totem Walk programs several times each day during peak visiting hours, but the park maintains steady foot traffic throughout the day. Not every visitor arrives when the programs are scheduled – or even when the visitor center is open. During the summer months, the park’s trails remain open long after the visitor center closes. According to the cell phone tour call logs, visitors are using their cell phones for tours as late as 11 p.m.
Whether visitors tour the Totem Trail during business hours or after the visitor center closes, cell phone tours allow late night or self-sufficient visitors to learn about the park’s resources at their own pace at no cost – other than a few minutes off their cellular plan.

After dialing a toll-free number, a woman’s voice leads visitors down the forested Totem Trail where the park’s totem poles are displayed. Moving down the mile-long loop, visitors can pause the tour, skip forward, or move backward. The narrator starts and stops at the push of a button. By dialing the number posted on small signs affixed to the totem poles’ non-historical support structures, visitors can completely control their self-guided tour.

From time to time, visitors dial the code to leave feedback for park management – and the reviews are glowing. “This is a spectacular service. As we walk through these incredible places without the guide, it allows us to be self-guided and informed. Thanks so much,” said one caller. “I just want you to know that this walking tour has been wonderful,” said another caller. “It made the difference between really understanding what I’m looking at versus just walking through a nice park and seeing a bunch of totem poles.”

Stacked and interlocking on red cedar poles, the faces of bears and ravens peered outward from the shore toward wondering traders and travelers. Two hundred years later, 120,000 visitors each year marvel at the totem poles at Sitka NHP in an interpretive experience available 24/7 thanks to the park’s rangers, wayside exhibits – and its cell phone walking tours.

By Michael Hess

NPS Awards Historic Preservation Grants to Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian Organizations
NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis today announced more than $700,000 in historic preservation grants to 18 American Indian tribes and Alaskan Natives organizations. The competitive grants can also be used to fund projects such as nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, preservation education, architectural planning, historic structure reports, community preservation plans, and bricks-and-mortar repair to buildings.

Ahtna Heritage Foundation (Alaska) $39,523
Igiugig Village Council (Alaska) $26,691
Native Village of Ambler (Alaska) $39,942
Seldovia Village Tribe, IRA (Alaska) $40,000
Hoopa Valley Tribe, (California) $40,000
Ione Band of Miwok Indians (California) $40,000
Sherwood Valley Rancheria Valley Band of Pomo Indians, (California) $40,000
Kohe Malamaiam O Kanaloa(Protect Kaho‘olawe Fund), (Hawaii) $34,175
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (Michigan) $40,000
The Prairie Island Paiute Tribe (Nevada) $39,421
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (Nevada) $36,902
Navajo Nation – Fort Defiance Chapter (New Mexico) $40,000
Pueblo of Santa Ana (New Mexico) $38,579
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, (Oklahoma) $30,925
Peori Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma (Oklahoma) $48,000
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma (Oklahoma) $40,000
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, (Oklahoma)  $59,692
Confederated tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (Oregon)  $39,066

Congress provides these grant appropriations each year with revenue from Federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. The NPS administers the grants through the Historic Preservation Fund on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

For more information about the National Park Service tribal preservation programs and grants, please visit:  http://www.nps.gov/tribes/Tribal_Historic_Preservation_Officers_Program.htm.

**Suspects in Nine Mile Canyon Rock Art Vandalism Identified**

The BLM has identified a juvenile responsible for defaming ancient petroglyphs in Carbon County on Memorial Day weekend. The BLM Price Field Office law enforcement officers and archeological staff investigated the damage to the Nine Mile Canyon pregnant buffalo rock art panel. The “pregnant buffalo” depicts a large bison with a bison fetus inside of it. It was carved between 900 and 1250 A.D., during the Fremont period, archeologists say.

Steve Hansen owns a ranch near the rock art panel. He didn’t see the vandalism first hand but spotted a group of four people quickly leaving the site right after it happened. Hansen said a few hours later a teenager got out of the vehicle at his ranch and approached, confessing to the vandalism. An archeologist who was also in the area reported their license plate to the BLM.

A BLM law enforcement officer met with the youths and their family to discuss the seriousness of the incident, officials said. BLM archaeologists estimated that restoration and repair efforts would cost about $1,500. The family agreed to meet the financial cost needed repair the rock face. The juvenile apologized for his actions.

**Projects in Parks:** is taking a break this month.

*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 illustrated *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page http://www.nps.gov/archeology/new.htm on the NPS Archeology Program website.

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