May 2016 Archeology E-Gram

The Bureau of Land Management Utah Office has been particularly active this month! Check out the FEDERAL NEWS!

NPS NEWS

ArcheoBlitz at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
The first-ever NPS “ArcheoBlitz” took place at Knife River Indian Villages NHS on May 5-7, 2016, engaging 250 middle-school students from area schools in archeological research. This event built on the “BioBlitz” model to involve the public in NPS field studies. The first two days gave students the opportunity to conduct archeological field work. They worked with professionals to collect data through non-invasive research methods. Paired with archeologists, the students:

• Mapped, documented, and screened surface sediments near burrowing mammal holes for artifacts;
• Conducted small diameter coring for stratigraphic and magnetic susceptibility analyses and used geophysical techniques to map the location of cultural features below-ground;
• Sorted artifacts into basic material classes and selected artifacts for compositional and functional analyses in the Mobile Archaeological Microforensic Laboratory;

The third day of the ArcheoBlitz was open to the public and included Native performing arts groups, research presentations, and interpretive events throughout the day. In addition to local public and tribal school students, an Ancestral Lands Corps crew of five young people traveled from Zuni Pueblo in New Mexico to provide critical support on event preparation and logistics.

The ArcheoBlitz would not have been possible without partners: the NPS Midwest Archeological Center, NPS Archeology Program (WASO), and NPS Youth Program (WASO); Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College; Historical Society of North Dakota; Effigy Mounds NM; North Dakota Geographic Alliance; Ancestral Lands Corps; Northern Plains Heritage Foundation; Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation THPO; Theodore Roosevelt History and Natural Association; Knife River Indian Heritage Foundation;
Center/Stanton, Hazen, Beulah, Grand Forks, Twin Buttes, and New Town public schools; North Dakota State University; University of North Dakota-Grand Forks; Minnesota State University-Moorehead; Southern Methodist University; USBOR; USFS; Paleo Cultural Research Group; Paleo Research Institute; and Short River Productions.

For more information see [www.facebook.com/kniferiverindianvillagesNHS](http://www.facebook.com/kniferiverindianvillagesNHS)

By Craig Hansen

**Archeologist Stephen R. Potter Receives Dedication Arrowhead from Office of Ranger Services**

On April 29, 2016, Philip A. Selleck, NPS National Capital Region (NCR) Associate Regional Director, Operations, on behalf of law enforcement rangers, awarded NCR Regional Archeologist Stephen R. Potter an arrowhead in appreciation of his passion and dedication to cultural resources protection. For the past 36 years Potter has provided unwavering support and assistance to regional rangers who investigate cultural resource crimes. Potter’s assistance routinely resulted in favorable criminal prosecutions, increased program support for cultural resources protection, and a better understanding and appreciation of cultural resources protection through public outreach and education.

By Will Reynolds, Regional Chief Ranger

![Image](image.jpg)

**National Park Service Cotter Award Winners Announced**

The NPS has announced the winners of the 2016 John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in NPS Archeology. This award is presented to archeologists who excel in scientific archeological research, community involvement, and public education. The winners are:

*Stephen R. Potter (Professional Achievement Award):* Potter has served as the National Capital Region (NCR) Regional Archeologist for 36 years. He has been a tireless advocate for urban archeology and the use of emerging technologies to document and interpret NPS archeological sites. In the last 21 years and under Potter’s leadership, NCR has obligated over 4.2 million dollars to research-based cultural resource and archeological projects. He also is the editor of the *Occasional Report* series of the NCR Regional Archeology Program, which has published 20 volumes since 1985.
Potter has worked to develop brochures, wayside signs, handbooks and activity booklets highlighting cultural resources throughout NCR. He has been involved with the NPS Urban Archeology Initiative, a youth-based diversity program designed to introduce students to history, archeology and science. Potter has previously received the Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award and has been recognized by the National Geographic Society and the Archaeological Society of Virginia for innovative research projects.

William Reitze (Project Award): From 2013-2015, Reitze developed and supervised an archeological survey project at Petrified Forest NP. During the project, survey crews walked over 1,000 miles and surveyed 7,000 acres. As a result, evidence of over 13,000 years of human history was discovered and recorded in the park.

Reitze developed an archeological internship program for 16 students who were trained in pedestrian survey, site recordation, historic preservation, and artifact analysis. Local high school students were also trained in archeological site mapping and historic preservation techniques. The project incorporated graduate research by two MA students and two PhD students. To date, information gathered as part of the project has resulted in twenty-eight poster presentations and six professional papers.

John L. Cotter (1911 – 1999) was best known for his work at Jamestown, Virginia, and his contributions to the development of historical archeology. The award was created to recognize professional achievements and exceptional projects in honor of Cotter’s long and distinguished career. Award nominations are peer submitted and voted on by the award committee comprising five NPS archeologists.

National Park Service Archeologist Receives Interior Department’s Distinguished Service Award
NPS archeologist Caven Clark, archeologist at Buffalo National River, received a Distinguished Service Award during the Interior Department’s 71st Departmental Honor Awards Convocation on May 9, 2016. DOI’s highest honorary recognition is presented to employees for outstanding contributions made during an eminent career in DOI or exceptional contributions to public service.

Clark’s efforts assisted in protecting archeological sites from threats that include looting, vandalism, fire, and natural erosion. With special agents and chief park rangers in the NPS Midwest region (MWR), in 2005 the Cultural and Archeological Resource Team (CART) was established to aid parks in the investigation and prosecution of cultural resource crimes. Clark helped train this core group and continues to provide training and technical expertise. He has served as the primary archeologist on multiple site damage assessments; as a technical advisor on search warrant entry teams; and has provided expert testimony in Federal court. Clark is responsible for the MWR ARPA Plan, a set of standard operating procedures for managing and protecting cultural resource assets, which is used as a template throughout the Service to establish aggressive cultural resource protection programs.

After his arrival at Buffalo National River, the number of felony convictions for ARPA violations doubled. In 2011, Clark was assigned to a team led by the Investigative Services Branch to investigate five individuals suspected of looting and trafficking artifacts from federal properties in three states. The investigation resulted in indictments and pleas to a wide range of felony charges. Clark has also taught and developed curriculum in the ARPA Training program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for the past eight years.

By Karen Mudar
Michael Holt, New Chief of Resources, NPS Southeast Arizona Group

Michael Holt has been selected as the new Chief of Resources and Science at the NPS Southeast Arizona Group. He began his Federal career as an archeologist with Tahoe NF in 2000, followed by seasons at Lassen and Shasta/Trinity NF. He worked 2005-2009 throughout the Great Basin for the BLM in Bishop, CA, Twin Falls, ID and Battle Mountain, NV. In 2009, he was hired as an NPS archeologist and served as Chief of Cultural Resources/Senior Archeologist until March 2016 at the Western Arctic National Parklands (WEAR). He has coordinated and co-authored several NPS technical issue papers on the subject of climate change-related impacts for the Alaska region.

Holt received his B.A. in Anthropology with a certificate in Cultural Resource Management from California State University, Chico in 2000. He later completed his M.A. with merit in Landscape Archaeology and Heritage from the University of Leicester, UK in 2013.

Saratoga National Historical Park Announces Release of New Archeology Book

On May 3, 2016, a new book was released on the archeology of the Battles of Saratoga. The Saratoga Campaign: Uncovering an Embattled Landscape, edited by NPS Archeologist Bill Griswold and Donald Linebaugh of the University of Maryland, provides a new and greatly expanded understanding of the battles of Saratoga.

The Saratoga Campaign presents new scholarship with a special focus on archeological investigations of key areas of the battlefield. The volume also presents some of the rich history of the region both before and after the Revolutionary War.

As part of the commemoration of the NPS Centennial, Saratoga NHP will be offering a series of contributing author lectures. The first will be on June 4, 2016, at the Saratoga NHP visitor center. It will be a panel discussion with Griswold, Linebaugh, Park Curator Chris Valosin, and Park Ranger Eric Schnitzer.

For more information as the dates approach, go to https://www.nps.gov/sara/index.htm

By Bill Valosin

New Burial Mound at Effigy Mounds National Monument

Officials at Effigy Mounds NM report a new American Indian burial mound has been discovered after 70 years of numerous archeological investigations in the park. Biotechnicians identified on a new mound last summer as they were tending to plants at the park. Effigy Mounds NM cultural resources program manager Albert LeBeau said the mound had been hidden by fallen trees in a heavily wooded area.

Park staff hasn't confirmed the presence of burial remains, but is treating the mound as such because of its location and configuration. It lies in the northeast portion of the more than 2,500-acre park. "It really isn't on a landform where I'd expect to find a mound, because it was on a low terrace away from a water source," LeBeau said.

A geophysical survey of the site is scheduled for this summer.
National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center Assists in Site Protection

Over the past year NPS Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) staff have investigated the Byrd Hammock burial mound site, known to have a ring village nearby, and found an earlier ring village associated with an earlier mound. Ring type sites are rare, and so far restricted to northwest Florida; the Byrd Hammock site is in Wakulla County. SEAC staff are preparing National Historic Landmark nominations for the sites.

SEAC staff also assisted the Archaeological Conservancy to purchase one of the mounds and part of a ring, and with St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge to obtain another portion of the site for the Refuge. To secure the property, SEAC staff worked with the USFS, who has responsibility for the nearby National Scenic Florida trail; the Florida SHPO, who agreed to curate artifacts; Louisiana State University and Florida State University departments of anthropology, who partnered with SEAC to run two separate field schools; Wakulla county realtors and property owners who agreed to partition two lots for sale into smaller units for the Conservancy to purchase; Wakulla County commissioners and property offices who agreed to waive legal requirements prohibiting such partitioning of the lots; and scores of local volunteers who worked hundreds of hours surveying the dense wooded lots to determine site locations.

For these efforts, SEAC was awarded the regional Harzog VIP program award and the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Outstanding Archaeological Achievement Award.

By Karen Mudar

Centennial Heartbeat Heard at Aztec Ruins National Monument

Aztec Ruins NM celebrated National Parks Week with three cultural Centennial events. 2016 marks not only the NPS Centennial, but also 100 years of archeological study of the Aztec West great house.

- The park opened National Parks Week with an American Indian Cultural Arts Festival. This event featured Project N.A.T.I.V.E! cultural demonstrators from Navajo and Pueblo tribes. Demonstrations included pottery making, basket weaving, woodcarving, silversmithing and painting.
- The park celebrated the “Class Act” partnership with Bloomfield High School. Aztec Ruins provided Site Steward training for stewardship of ancestral Pueblo sites both on and off NPS lands. Salmon Ruins, a local privately owned archeological site, hosted the gathering; Friends of Aztec Ruins provided a pizza and cake lunch to mark the occasion.
- The park hosted the 8th annual Earth Day Celebration. Community booths, kids’ activities, demonstrations and Acoma potters were on site; the Pueblo Enchantment Dancers from the Acoma Pueblo shared live performances. Smokey the Bear even made appearances, courtesy of a neighboring USFS Jicarilla Apache team. The park hosted the Aztec Trails and Open Spaces “Not Quite 5K Fun Run,” which started and finished inside the monument.

The events were sponsored by Project N.A.T.I.V.E.!, Aztec Trails and Open Spaces, the Friends of Aztec Ruins, Bloomfield High School, staff support from Chaco Culture NHP, Western National Park Association, Aztec JROTC cadets, AmeriCorps/VISTA staff and the Aztec Ruins NM volunteer program.

By Danielle York

Ocmulgee National Monument Hosts 1,750 Kids for Every Kid in a Park

Ocmulgee NM hosted Every Kid in a Park May 2-6, 2016, with every 4th grader in Bibb County coming to the park. Ocmulgee NM wanted every 4th grader to explore the outdoors and learn about the Native American way of life. Two American Indians gave lifestyle demonstrations about how their ancestors
found food, clothing, and shelter. The children got to explore the park and see the 1,000 year old earth lodge floor of the council chamber and the mounds. A field trip grant from The National Park Foundation helped pay for 52 school buses to transport the kids.

By Angela Bates

Durbin Seeks National Park Status for Cahokia Mounds
An ongoing effort to get an Illinois archeological site designated as a national park is getting a boost from Senator Dick Durbin. The East St. Louis native sent a letter asking President Obama to declare the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site as a national monument. The request comes two years after the NPS began to study that prospect. The property is designated by the United Nations as a World Heritage Site. It's also a National Historic Landmark.

NPS Cultural Resources Enterprise GIS Data Now Available
The NPS Cultural Resources GIS program (CRGIS) is developing an NPS-wide enterprise GIS cultural resources dataset. The purpose of the project is to provide an authoritative geographic data set delineating features included in the national NPS cultural resource inventory databases, ensuring they comply with the NPS Cultural Resources Spatial Data Transfer Standards. The objective is to deliver better access to cultural resource information for inventory, planning, compliance, disaster preparedness and resource stewardship through the integration of the existing cultural resource databases. The data currently includes National Register of Historic Places (National Register), Cultural Landscapes Inventory and List of Classified Structures data; and limited NPS tax and grant-related information.

At this time, the enterprise dataset is available only to NPS employees. Sensitive data have been restricted and is available only by specific request made to the individual parks, programs, or regions responsible for its creation. Advanced GIS users can connect to the SQL database or REST services through their GIS software. Casual GIS users with access to software can use a custom designed ArcGIS .mxd file that helps to connect to, organize, and symbolize the data for them. Novice/Non-GIS users can use a web map via the NPS Portal.

CRGIS also produces spatial data related to the National Register as a stand-alone dataset. Currently, the GIS collection includes more than 87,000 properties, including archeological properties, listed on the national inventory, and is updated periodically. Non-sensitive data are available for download through the IRMA Data Store, a public-facing web map service, and via a web map application.

CRGIS is working to incorporate all of the NPS cultural resources inventory databases into the enterprise dataset by creating useable spatial data for each program and defining relationships between resources identified in these databases. CRGIS plans next to include Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS) and Heritage Documentation Programs data into the system. Program and regional data editors will be working to update existing data.

CRGIS is also working with FEMA to help improve the spatial accuracy of National Register historic district boundaries. Many existing boundaries for districts in Massachusetts and Connecticut have already been updated and additional states in the northeast are set to follow to follow later this year.

Links to documentation and access points can be found through the CRGIS webpage at https://www.nps.gov/crgis/cr_enterprise.
FEDERAL NEWS

Army Corps of Engineers Determines Kennewick Man is Native American
The skeleton called Kennewick Man is related to modern Native American tribes, the ACE has announced, opening the process for returning to tribes one of the oldest and most complete set of human remains ever found in North America. The decision was based on a review of new recently published DNA and skeletal analyses. New genetic evidence determined the remains were closer to modern Native Americans than any other population. The Corps, which has custody of the remains, said the skeleton is now covered by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The 8,500-year-old remains were discovered in 1996 in Kennewick, Washington near the Columbia River, triggering a legal fight between tribes, scientists, and Federal agencies over whether the bones should be buried immediately or studied. The bones will remain at the Burke Museum in Seattle until the Corps determines which tribe or tribes will receive them. In the past, the Colville, Yakama, Umatilla, Nez Perce and Wanapum Indians have claimed the remains. However, a spokesman for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation said the tribes plan to cooperate to hasten the burial.

BLM Wants to Pay People Who Help Find Looting and Vandals
Utah's San Juan County has more archaeological sites per square mile than any other U.S. county, totaling about 250,000. BLM officials fear looting is on the rise, with at least 25 incidents reported to the BLM Monticello field office since 2011. Because the BLM lacks the resources to adequately monitor these cultural treasures, it's turning to private-sector partners and the public for help.

The agency is offering a standing reward of $2,500 for information leading to convictions of those who steal or vandalize archeological resources on Utah's public lands, officials announced May 4, 2016. BLM's acting Utah director, Jenna Whitlock, and the Friends of Cedar Mesa executive director, Josh Ewing, also signed a memorandum of understanding. Ewing plans to include state trust lands, the USFS, and the NPS — agencies whose San Juan County holdings also are home to at-risk sites. The new reward was among a suite of measures under a program called Respect and Protect. The reward money comes from private funds put up by Friends of Cedar Mesa.

About a fifth of San Juan County's archaeological sites are found on Cedar Mesa and surrounding features west of Bluff and Blanding, both in Utah. Visitation at Cedar Mesa and Comb Ridge — areas with few interpretive and trailhead facilities — has climbed to about 150,000 a year, and carelessness is responsible for as much damage as looting. Visitors knocked down ancient walls, drove through archeological sites, and plundered ancient structures for firewood.

BLM has teamed with the nonprofit Tread Lightly to develop public education. A new program "will empower Utah's public to enjoy their cultural and natural heritage in a way that minimizes damage to these places," said Lori McCullough, executive director of Tread Lightly. Her group is taking Respect and Protect on the road for campaign launch events in five Utah towns this summer. Whitlock also announced an expansion of the BLM's site-steward program and encouraged people to volunteer to periodically check on sites and document abuses they see.
To learn more about Respect and Protect, go to http://www.treadlightly.org/programs/respected-access-campaign/respect-and-protect/.

From story by Brian Maffly, Salt Lake City Tribune

Be on the Lookout for Looters!
Friends of Cedar Mesa and BLM officials offer the following tips on how to spot incidents of looting and vandalism.

• Watch for freshly dug earth.
• Watch for discarded human bones, often a sign that a burial site has been desecrated in an attempt to steal artifacts.
• Take photos of damaged areas, including tire tracks and footprints. Note vehicles and license plates of suspects.
• Watch and listen for rock saws, which are being used to cut out rock-art from sandstone walls.
• Watch for the illegal use of ropes to access ruins, often a sign of looting.
• Watch for round holes in the ground at ruin sites. Looters use wire to probe for artifacts.
• Preserve evidence of looting or vandalism by leaving a suspected site untouched.
• Be wary of people who visit ruins at night.
• Looters often work at night to avoid detection.
• Be wary about posting information and pictures of archaeological sites online. GPS data or directions to a site may tip off looters.
• Do not confront suspects! Record where and how the suspicious activity occurs, and contact authorities.

To report incidents of looting or vandalism on southwest Colorado public lands contact the Colorado State Patrol communication center at (970) 249-4392, the Montezuma County Sheriff at 970-565-8452, or the Anasazi Heritage Center at 970-882-4811. For incidents in southeast Utah, call 1-800-722-3998. In other areas, call the appropriate land manager or local law enforcement officers.

Petroglyph Patrol Created To Prevent Vandalism in Utah
Conservationists in Washington County, Utah, have formed a new partnership to protect petroglyphs. Vandalism over ancient drawings and the looting of archeological sites is a growing problem in southern Utah – specifically at the Land Hill Heritage site west of St. George. "Our rock art locally in St. George is being graffitied over. They're writing their names or calling out their school or professing their love for someone," said Lori Hunsaker, BLM archeologist. "We've actually had one mom say, 'If the Indians could write on the rocks, how come my kids can't,'" Susan Crook, Land Program Manager, Southwest Utah National Conservation Lands Friends, said.

As part of the Respect and Protect campaign, the BLM is partnering with Conserve Southwest Utah to prevent further damage. As part of the partnership, a ‘Petroglyph Patrol’ will monitor Land Hill during peak times. Starting this summer, the volunteers will educate parents and children about appropriate behavior near the ancient site.

"Losing these sites or having them destroyed to the point where we can’t read the stories that are there is a huge loss to our culture, to everyone. It's like burning down libraries," Crook said.

By Hailey Higgins, Good4Utah.com
BLM Steps Up to Protect Archeological Sites
The BLM has suspended the nomination of any federal public lands for oil and gas development on more than a half-million acres in portions of Emery and Wayne counties, Utah, as it launches a new planning process in the San Rafael area. The new master leasing plans for 524,854 acres are intended to settle disputes over long-standing lease protests and provide certainty for energy developers in an area also prized for its rich archeological treasures and scenic vistas such as Desolation and Labyrinth canyons. The BLM plans to release its final environmental analysis for the Moab leasing area later this summer.

BLM officials say the plans will serve as a roadmap for orderly gas and oil development while still providing protection for resources in the area. The San Rafael Desert, northwest of the Glen Canyon NRA, includes the Dirty Devil-Robbers Roost canyon system that is prized for rafting, canyoneering and hunting. NPS officials say the region is rich in prehistoric archeological sites.

The BLM will hold a pair of public meetings to start the process: June 15 at the John Wesley Powell River History Museum, Green River, Utah, and June 16 at the Museum of the San Rafael, Castle Dale, Utah. Both meetings will be from 6-8 p.m.

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue, Deseret News

Bureau of Land Management Officials, Tribal Leaders Mark Access to Sloan Canyon
Native American leaders, local and federal officials, and conservation area backers marked the opening of a paved road and visitor contact station in Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. BLM Officials say Nawghaw Poa Road is completed, along with parking, interpretive kiosks, restrooms and a ranger station. This petroglyph-rich area designated for preservation is south of Las Vegas, Nevada. The work provides 44 miles of trail access to Petroglyph Canyon, along with views of the Las Vegas valley from the hills south of Henderson. The Las Vegas Paiute Tribe members gave blessings on May 19, 2016, at a ceremony opening visitor access.

Archeology Fair at Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument
In celebration of New Mexico’s Historic Preservation Month, the BLM Las Cruces District, New Mexico Historic Preservation Division-Department of Cultural Affairs; Archaeological Society of New Mexico; and the Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks sponsored a free archeology fair at Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks NM on May 7, 2016. The event, called “Adventures from the Past,” included a range of activities and ancient technology demonstrations.

Archeologists from across the state hosted a variety of hands-on activities like making yucca cordage, drawing petroglyphs and stringing shell beads. They demonstrated the art of throwing a spear using an atlatl and shooting an arrow with primitive bows. Living history and local archeology was a part of the outdoor event, with hikes to the Van Patten Mountain Camp ruins and La Cueva rock shelter available.

Archaeological Aleutian Animal Bones Could Wind Up in a Canadian Dump
If a large collection of archeological animal bones aren't returned soon to the Museum of the Aleutians, they may end up in the trash in Canada, according to a frustrated scientist in Victoria, British Columbia, who is encountering tax problems while trying to avoid international legal difficulties. The $6,000 set aside for shipping three shrink-wrapped pallets of nearly a half million bones back to Unalaska is causing financial headaches for the private research firm, Pacific Identifications.
"We had to pay taxes on these funds to carry them forward to this year. We are unwilling to pay taxes on these funds for yet another year," zoologist and treasurer Susan Crockford said in an email to the FWS. "…if we cannot get the import permit required to ship the material by August of this year…, we face having to do something unconscionable to professional archaeologists and research scientists: send all 57 boxes to the dump."

Most likely, no federal permits are needed since the bones came from Native corporation land, under the terms of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. However, FWS officials were still reviewing the requirements of international treaties involving endangered species and migratory birds.

The bones, nearly a half million in all, were excavated from Unalaska's Amaknak Bridge site by former museum director and archeologist Rick Knecht. Around 2004 they were sent to the Canadian scientists. Former interim museum executive director Cynthia Jones stated that Knecht sent them out of the country without FWS approval. Knecht said he was unaware of any such requirement. Pacific Identifications held them until 2014, when they decided to send them back, but ran into bureaucratic roadblocks.

"This assemblage … bears unmistakable evidence of a severe cold period when sea ice in the Bering Sea was much more extensive than it is today. Only about 10 percent of the material has been identified, which means there is the potential for more analysis to be done, including DNA analysis," Crockford said. The ancient animal bones are between 2,500 and 3,500 years old, and about 42,000 pieces have been identified. Crockford did mention one alternative to a modern midden heap: giving them away in Canada.

By Jim Paulin, Bristol Bay Times

GRANTS AND TRAINING
No announcements this month.

SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC
Will return next month!

Archaeology 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 Archaelogy E-Grams to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The Archaeology E-Gram is available on the News and Links page www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the NPS Archeology Program website.

Contact: Karen Mudar at dca@nps.gov to contribute news items and to subscribe.