



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



April 2017 Archeology E-Gram

NPS NEWS

National Park Service Cotter Award Winners Announced

The NPS has announced the winners of the 2017 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:

Greg Burtchard (Professional Achievement Award): Greg Burtchard has been actively engaged in disseminating archeological research results; and developing and maintaining partnerships with universities and federal agencies. Burtchard also greatly expanded interaction and collaboration between Mount Rainier NP and federally-recognized tribal members and the traditionally associated people of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

In *Holocene Subsistence and Settlement Patterns: Mount Rainier and the Montane Pacific Northwest. Archaeology in Washington*, Burtchard addresses the capacity of this and other mountain landscapes to attract and sustain pre-contact hunters and gatherers. He offers a food intensification model based on forager to collector principles and demonstrated through paleo-climate modeling and sampling that vegetative communities on the mountain were highly variable over time. Burtchard used his paleo-climate models to inform predictive modeling for archeological sites in high country, and as a result, was able to identify many new sites.

William Griswold (Project Award): With co-editor Dr. Donald W. Linebaugh, and ten other contributors, William “Bill” Griswold published important archeological scholarship about the Battles of Saratoga. *The Saratoga Campaign: Uncovering an Embattled Landscape* highlights over 75 years of archeology at Saratoga NHP and explores the variety of archeological techniques and technologies used to uncover the past at the park. It has quickly become a key part of the park's archeological public outreach.

Griswold's leadership on this project is evident through the coordination of the authors, the integrity of the work presented, the thematic flow of the narrative that is told through the book, and the overall high quality product that was published. He has been a strong advocate for the park's history, and this book is another example of his passion and commitment to his work.

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.

Passing of NPS Archeology Volunteer Edwin Day

Edwin A. Day, 81, passed away on March 26, 2017. He was born in Dumas, Texas, and developed a love of Texas Panhandle archeology at a young age. Day served in the U.S. Army and the National Guard for six years and began his NPS career on July 4, 1965, as the first General Park Ranger hired by Sanford Recreation Area (later renamed Lake Meredith NRA). Day spent his entire 32 year career as a park ranger at Lake Meredith NRA and Alibates Flint Quarries NM. After retirement, he volunteered 20 more years there and at Organ Pipe Cactus NM.

A true legend, Day enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the resources with people of all ages - talking with visitors, guiding tours, and making arrowheads. In recent years, Day was the centerpiece of the annual

Flintfest for his flintknapping demonstrations at the Alibates Flint Quarries NM Visitor Center. His flintknapping abilities utilized original type techniques and materials. Day is currently featured in the movie “Sharpe Edge of Survival” shown daily at the visitor center.

Day received many honors, including the NPS Freeman Tilden Interpreter of the Year nomination, and Fritch Citizen of the Year. He also received the President’s Award for Volunteerism for the NPS. Day provided more demonstrations and conducted more tours of the Alibates Flint Quarries than any other employee or volunteer. During his life and career he touched thousands and thousands of lives with his extensive knowledge and stories.

He always professed that flint chips were far more important than any computer chip and that so much more good could be done with a Big Chief tablet and a pencil. His NPS family will miss him dearly.

By Tim Cruze, Chief of Interpretation, Alibates Flint Quarries NM and Lake Meredith NRA



National Park Service and National Aeronautics and Space Administration Partnership

National park resources are experiencing unprecedented change and increased vulnerability due to park visitation, urban encroachment, oil and gas development, and a changing climate. Understanding how park systems respond to these stressors is the first step toward appropriate management of our national park units. An NPS partnership with NASA’s DEVELOP Program is helping managers better understand these changes. The DEVELOP Program provides a project team of interns and a NASA science advisor to work on selected park projects for 10 weeks at no cost to the partner. The team studies select data from aerial imagery to help decision makers better understand environmental issues and responses.

A notable feature of the NPS/NASA partnership has been the introduction of cultural resources into project concepts for consideration. “NPS and NASA: A Partnership to Address Resource Concerns through Application of Geospatial Imagery,” at the 2017 George Wright Society Conference highlighted two cultural resource projects: monitoring snow and ice coverage in Intermountain Region parks to assess vulnerability of archeological sites, and seeking ancient roadbeds around Chaco Culture NHP.

National Park Service Celebrates Park Week with Junior Ranger Program

During National Park week, national parks across the country encourage young people to experience their parks through the Junior Ranger Program. Designed for kids from 5 to 13, free Junior Ranger programs help young visitors gain a deep understanding of each park and discover the wonders within it. Activity booklets and park programs offer fun ways to fulfill the Junior Ranger motto — “explore, learn and protect” — and earn badges and certificates.

Hundreds of Junior Ranger programs exist across the country. Junior Ranger programs highlight a park’s nature, historical sites, or architecture. Junior Rangers understand how the NPS emblem, which is nearly 66 years old, helps make connections across all parks. The emblem’s arrowhead shape represents archeological discoveries that help us understand the people who once lived and worked on these lands. The buffalo and sequoia symbols represent the wildlife and plants that make these parks their home.

The NPS Junior Archeologist booklet is available online to print at home (<https://www.nps.gov/kids/pdf/JrArcheologistAndParentGuide.pdf>). Participants can send their completed booklets to the NPS Archeology Program (address in booklet) for a badge. The booklet includes activities covering the basics of archeology and a parents guide. Although the booklet specifies ages 6-12, the Archeology Program accepts submissions from all ages!

From Kids Page, Washington Post

FEDERAL NEWS

Kevin Kilcullen, Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Preservation Officer, Retires



Kevin Kilcullen, USFWS Federal Preservation Officer, and the longest serving preservation officer in U.S. government, retired on March 31, 2017. Kilcullen's influence over the USFWS cultural resources program stretches back 40 years. He began his career in 1975 as a student intern. He became head of the Refuge System's Visitor Service's Branch in 2002 and headed up national programs in environmental education natural resource interpretation, cultural and heritage preservation, youth and volunteer programs and numerous projects, assisting more than 220 nonprofit Refuge Friends organizations across the country.

Kilcullen also played a key role in the planning and design of the USFWS National Conservation Training Center located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, ensuring compliance with all archeological requirements and helping to administer the largest-ever Service historic preservation contract.

Kilcullen developed the first policies for cultural resources and museum property for the agency and worked tirelessly to integrate cultural resources into the larger mission of the USFWS. He championed the idea that Every Refuge tells a Story and that most of that story involves history. He was instrumental in setting up a small grant program in 2006 to help USFWS properties make use of their history through innovative programming that brought history to life for visitors. Largely as a result of his leadership and forward thinking in the area of historic preservation, the USFWS received an Advisory Council for Historic Preservation award and Kilcullen received the DOI Meritorious Service Award in 2006. A decade later, Kilcullen oversaw USFWS efforts to make the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, the chief preservation law for the federal government, meaningful for USFWS staff.

From story by Eugene Marino

100,000 Pounds of Debris Removed from Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Approximately 100,000 pounds of marine debris was removed from sites within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine NM. The debris was loaded aboard 12 shipping containers and transported to Honolulu from Midway Atoll. The debris was collected from the reefs and beaches of Midway and Kure Atolls over the last six years. Through the Nets to Energy Program, it will be processed by Schnitzer Steel Corporation and transported to the City and County of Honolulu's H-POWER plant, where it is being incinerated to produce electricity.

"The success of this project is linked to effective inter-agency coordination, communication and action," said Jason Misaki, O'ahu Wildlife Manager, DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife. "Marine debris

in the Monument affects all partners, making joint efforts like this one extremely instrumental to our continued protection of resources.”

Marine debris is a lethal entanglement and ingestion hazard for wildlife—including threatened Hawaiian green sea turtles and endangered Hawaiian monk seals. It also obscures and desecrates archeological sites and traditional cultural properties.

From story in Maui Now

Study Finds National Monuments Help Rural Economy

The BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, about six miles from Cortez, Colorado, contains more than 6,000 Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings, kivas and rock paintings spread across 176,056 acres. It was designated a national monument by President Bill Clinton on June 9, 2000, and will be under review by the Trump Administration. It draws about 30,000 visitors a year and the BLM’s multi-use management plan still allows for grazing and oil and gas development on parts of the monument, just as it did before the designation.

The nonpartisan research group Headwaters Economics in 2011 and 2014 studied the economic vitality of communities hosting 17 national monuments in the West, including Montezuma County, where Canyons of the Ancients NM is located. The overarching conclusion: national monuments are consistent with economic growth.

Since 2000, Montezuma County’s population has grown about 8 percent, jobs are up 10 percent and personal income is up about 20 percent, according to research by. That’s not that much different from the growth seen across rural Colorado.

While it’s hard to pin the county’s growth since 2000 directly to the creation of the national monument, “there’s no evidence that the Canyons of the Ancients is hurting the economy in any way,” said Chris Mehl with Headwaters Economics. “On average, rural counties across the West with more federal lands do better than counties with less federal lands.”

From story by Jason Blevins, Denver Post

GRANTS AND TRAINING

Archeologist Needed for VISTA Position at Bandelier National Monument

Ancestral Lands Program is seeking to fill an Americorps VISTA position at Bandelier NM. The position will support development of additional Ancestral Lands Program groups in the Northern Rio Grande area. The application deadline is May 31, 2017; the position begins in early June. The position comes with a stipend and education award; housing available at Bandelier NM for an entire year.

The Ancestral Lands Program positions are in various locations throughout the country, and work to bring together Americorps, Tribes, and Federal to support developing more tribal-focused corps programs. These programs provide opportunities for Native youth and young adults to reconnect with nature through conservation work. Projects often entail camping in remote areas; work skills such as chainsaw, fencing, trail building, habitat restoration; and personal and professional development.

To apply, go to

<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=71843&fromSearch=true>

National Park Service Park NAGPRA Program Offers Webinars

The Park NAGPRA program is offering several webinars in 2017 about the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Three one to two hour webinars will focus on selected topics:

- Disposition of Unclaimed Cultural Items (43 CFR 10.7)
- Plans of Action & Comprehensive Agreements. (43 CFR 10.5 (e) and (f))
- Inadvertent Discoveries/Intentional Excavations (43 CFR 10.3 and 10.4)

One multi-session webinar, for which credit is available in DOI Learn, will cover a broad range of topics:

- NAGPRA in the Parks

This last webinar is a multiple-day course that consists of three-hour sessions on three consecutive days. Topics include, but are not limited to – NAGPRA basics, collections (inventories and summaries), intentional excavations and inadvertent discoveries, culturally unidentifiable and unclaimed, tribal consultation, evaluating repatriation requests (claims), and reburial on park lands.

To register, go to

<https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/k2/j.php?MTID=t938f802b73a7064a6a36d271d558d9f5>.

For questions, contact Holly McKee (holly_mckee@nps.gov)



SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: New Theory for 'Fluting' of Clovis Points

Archeologists at Kent State University are testing their unique new theories about the purposes of Clovis weapon technologies. In their most recent article published online in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, Metin Eren and his co-authors from Southern Methodist University (Brett A. Story, David J. Meltzer and Kaitlyn A. Thomas), University of Tulsa (Briggs Buchanan), Rogers State University (Brian N. Andrews), Texas A&M University and the University of Missouri (Michael J. O'Brien) propose an explanation for the flint knapping technique of "fluting" the Clovis points. This singular technological attribute, the flake removal or "flute," is absent from the stone-tool repertoire of Pleistocene Northeast Asia.

Archeologists have debated for years as to why Clovis point makers added this flute feature. Basically, it is a thin groove chipped off at the base on both sides, perhaps first made by accident, which logically makes it very thin and brittle. However, after several types of testing, the researchers have reported that this thinning of the base can make it better able to withstand and absorb the shock of colliding with a hard object, such as the bone of a mastodon or bison.

"It was risky and couldn't have been easy to learn how to do this effectively," Eren explained. "Archaeological evidence suggests that up to one out of five points break when you try to chip this fluted base, and it takes at least 30 minutes to produce a finished specimen. So, though it was a time-consuming process and risky technique, successfully fluted Clovis points would have been extremely reliable, especially while traveling great

distances into unknown regions on a new continent. They needed points that would hold up and be used over and over again."

In their article, the researchers compared standardized computer models of fluted and unfluted points, as well as experimental "real-world" test specimens, and found that the fluted-point base does, in fact, act as a "shock absorber," increasing point robustness and ability to withstand physical stress via stress redistribution and damage relocation. Upon impact, the brittle base of the spearhead crumples and absorbs some energy, which prevents fatal breaks elsewhere on the point, so it could be reused.

Kent State University

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 <https://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.