



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## October 2018 Archeology E-Gram

### NPS NEWS

#### **Passing of National Park Service Archeologist Steve Daron**

On September 25, 2018, Steve Daron, Cultural Resource Program Manager at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, passed away after an 11-month battle with cancer. Daron was born in 1959 in Robinson, Illinois. The family moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, in 1967. Daron attended Colorado State University, earning a BA in Anthropology. He earned a MA at University of Wisconsin. After working in a number of temporary federal positions across the country, Daron found a home in Boulder City, Nevada.

In 2003, Daron became involved with the Nevada Cultural Site Steward Program which allows volunteers to connect with local history and promote preservation by monitoring archeological sites, including those within Lake Mead NRA. Through clubs such as the Nevada Rock Art Foundation and the Archaeo-Nevada Society, he also recruited and trained 41 stewards who help monitor over 30 archaeology sites at Lake Mead NRA. Additionally, these site stewards helped the Lake Mead Archaeology Crew document more than 28 rock art sites and 1,255 rock art and graffiti panels.



Daron was an active member of the Boulder City, Nevada Historic Preservation Committee from August 2010 through November 2017. served as the park's Cultural Resource Program Manager in Boulder City, Nevada, from March 1998 through September 2018. He served as the chairman from March 2016 through November 2017.

For his dedication and commitment to his work, Daron received such awards as 2013 Secretary of Interior Partners in Conservation; 2010 Preserve America Steward Award from First Lady Michelle Obama; and 2010 Preserve America Award from the Department of Interior.

Daron's many friends and colleagues will miss him very much.

#### **National Park Service Common Learning Portal Available**

Are you an employee, volunteer, or partner in the NPS workforce? If so, the Common Learning Portal (CLP) is your one-stop shop for educational resources to help you improve your job performance. The CLP can be accessed on mobile devices—such as iPads and smartphones, or any other Internet connected device. In addition to training, on the CLP you can find interactive and collaborative communities of learning; checklists and worksheets; instructional videos; and a searchable list of subject matter experts. For archeologists, the *In Effigy* training (see below) will be especially interesting. Additional archeology resources will become available on the CLP as products migrate from the Archeology Program website.

To access the CLP, go to [clp@nps.gov](mailto:clp@nps.gov).

#### **National Park Service Incident Management Team Addresses Status of Archeological Sites**

In September 2018 a blended Incident Management Team from the Eastern and Midwest Incident Management Teams mobilized in Atlanta to prepare for possible impacts from Hurricane Florence. The powerful storm was downgraded to Category 1 just before landfall on, September 14 but, due to slow movement of the system, brought record-breaking rainfall throughout North Carolina. The team



coordinated region-wide calls between the parks in Florence's path and the regional and national directorates. As the storm cleared the area it became clear that Cape Hatteras NS, Fort Raleigh NHS, Wright Brothers National Memorial, Cape Lookout NS, and Moores Creek NB were impacted by the storm.

The Team's accomplishments included stabilization of 72 structures and docks in three different locations; 39 archeological sites assessments; and 165 FMSS assessments.

### **Archeologist is National Capital Region History and Culture Program Manager**

Joshua Torres will join the NPS National Capital Region Cultural Resource Division as the program manager for the History and Culture Program. He will be responsible for the regional archeology, anthropology, and history programs and will serve as the regional archeologist. He comes from Rock Creek Park where he was the cultural resource program manager.

Torres is an anthropologist specializing in archeology of the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. He has more than 20 years of experience in cultural resource management in the public and private sectors. A native of northern Virginia, he holds a BA and MA in anthropology and archaeology from the University of Colorado and a PhD in anthropology and archeology from the University of Florida. He has served as the cultural resource program manager for Christiansted NHS, Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve, and Buck Island Reef NM in St. Croix.



*by Sam Tamburro*

**FEDERAL NEWS** (No archeology-relevant Federal news this month)

**GRANTS AND TRAINING** (No archeology-relevant grants and training announcements this month)

**SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: In Effigy Training Series Available to National Park Service Partners and Volunteers** by *Karen Mudar*

In May 2018 the NPS released a multi-media effort, now available on the Common Learning Portal (CLP), that included films, webinars, and online discussions about violations of Federal preservation laws at Effigy Mounds NM. This effort responded to a recommendation for more training in the 2016 after-action review written by Chief Archeologist Stanley Bond and other NPS officials. Cari Kreshak, Learning Manager for Cultural Resources, and filmmaker James Orr are to be commended for the excellent films that are well worth watching.

For those of you who have not been following the events at Effigy Mounds NM, here is a quick recap: the park, in northeast Iowa, was established to protect Native American conical and animal-shaped mounds located on bluffs along the Mississippi River. People were buried in and near the mounds and indigenous groups camped nearby while they were building the mounds. In the words of one cultural resource expert, “The whole park is an archeological site.”

In 1999, Phyllis Ewing became superintendent. By the end of Ewing’s tenure, the park had carried out 78 construction projects, some of them damaging mounds and all of them damaging archeological resources. NHPA compliance was not carried out on any of the projects. Ewing designated her chief of maintenance Section 106 coordinator, re-shuffling and marginalizing cultural resource specialists. The maintenance staff went from 4 to 20+, while the park did not have a cultural resources program.

Law Enforcement Officer Bob Palmer tried for almost 10 years to bring damaging development activities to the attention of the regional office with no success. Finally, Tim Mason, a conservation activist, contacted the Office of the Inspector General and, citing “waste and abuse,” was able to initiate an investigation. Public results of the investigation, because initiated by a private citizen, forced the NPS to act. Ewing was moved out of the park into the regional office. Eventually, she was forced into retirement.

During the investigation of Ewing, NPS Special Agent David Barland-Liles learned that the human remains of 41 Native Americans had been removed from the park. Barland-Liles found the remains in the garage of a former superintendent, Tom Munson. Munson, now 90 years old, was convicted for stealing government property. He was sentenced to 10 consecutive weekends in jail, served a year of home confinement, and was fined approximately \$109,000.

This story is filled with heroes – the people who protested against the wrongdoing; the people who are speaking out now; and Orr and Kreshak, who allowed their voices to be heard. Similar to the female employees who were not able to get any traction about sexual harassment at Grand Canyon NP until they went to DOI Secretary Sally Jewell, Palmer could not stop destruction of archeological resources until he enlisted the help of someone from outside the park. The only person to be convicted of any crime relating to Effigy Mounds was no longer an NPS employee.

Why wasn’t Ewing prosecuted? When the violations came to light, the regional director gave Ewing a whole year to change course before pulling her out of the park, and gave her a job in the regional office. As a result, DOJ attorneys declined to prosecute any of the culprits, pointing out that these actions signaled that the NPS condoned her activities and that DOJ may not win a case against them.

Orr and Kreshak addressed the question of accountability obliquely, letting the interviewees speak for themselves. In one of the films, Reed Robinson said, “It’s easy to punish lower level employees for small infractions, but when it comes to management, there is a tendency not to apply the same level of accountability.” Robinson, now NPS Midwest Regional Office Tribal Relations Indian Affairs Officer, is a former superintendent.

Archeologists and museum specialists at the regional level were aware of the irregularities at the park, but pointed out that they did not have authority to enforce actions, they were only advisory. Who had oversight? When the NPS became largely decentralized in the 1990s, authority for compliance largely shifted to the park level. David Barland-Liles tells us that when the Assistant US Attorney held a press conference at Tom Munson’s sentencing, he asked, “Where is your brass?” Barland-Liles pointed to himself and the acting superintendent, but the AUSA repeated “Where is your BRASS?”

Because of our interests as archeologists, however, we may have found something lacking in the webinar efforts. To my mind, linking the training to a roll-out of an anti-harassment campaign was a missed opportunity to discuss issues relating to accountability and resource protection. I was only able to watch two of the three webinars, but was disappointed in the “take away” messages – that Bob Palmer was harassed and we all have a responsibility to speak out against harassment. The events at Effigy Mounds were not about harassment, they were about breaking the law. What law?

Archeologist Caven Clark and Special Agent Barland-Liles were very clear: If a project manager doesn’t ensure that the Section 106 process is followed, and archeological resources are damaged during the project, then the manager is no better than a looter, and should be prosecuted under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. This was the first time that I had seen NHPA explicitly linked to a criminal section of ARPA. This, surely, is one of the take-away messages.

What can we learn from *In Effigy*? We need to ask whether this could happen in our park, or our museum, or our program. It would be great if our managers complied with cultural resource laws just because it was the right thing to do, but in the meantime, we can lead from below. The NPS is helping park employees to ensure that projects include Section 106 compliance with *106 Oversight Step by Step*, also available on the *In Effigy* page of the CLP. Archeologists also can take back the discussion by asking colleagues to watch the films and supplemental interviews and *talk*, either formally and informally, about accountability, about the relationship between Section 106 and ARPA.

Jim Nepstad, current superintendent at Effigy Mounds NM, suggests that one way to ensure that a park cannot carry out 78 projects without conducting Section 106 compliance is to make completion of the 106 process a requirement **before** requesting funding. The Park Service could go even further and make verification of completion **by the regional office** a requirement before the park could request funding for the project, establishing accountability at several levels. What if there were dedicated funding sources for completing Section 106? How could we make this happen? Changes of this nature to the funding process would demonstrate that the NPS does care about its resources, and not just about its facilities.

DOI employees can access *In Effigy* at <https://mylearning.nps.gov/announcing-the-effigy-mounds-training-series/>.

*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 at [www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm) on the NPS Archeology Program website.

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