NPS NEWS

Archeologist Vergil Noble Retires from NPS Midwest Archeological Center

NPS Archeologist Vergil E. Noble retired on July 19, 2019, after 32 years of service at the Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC), Lincoln, Nebraska. His NPS career falls into three phases—field archeologist, emphasizing historical archeology (1987-1996); manager for Operations and Archeological Information (1996-2000), and specialist for the National Historic Landmarks program (2000-2019).

Noble directed survey and excavation projects in nearly a third of the Midwest Region park units. His primary expertise was in the 18th-century fur trade. He also carried out archeology associated with restoration of historic structures, such as the Lincoln Home, homes of James A. Garfield and Ulysses S. Grant, along the Ohio and Erie Canal, and the Frazee House in Cuyahoga Valley NP.

Noble served on a Special Resource Study (SRS) team for the site of Fort Knox II in Vincennes, Indiana, and for the River Raisin Battlefield in Monroe, Michigan. He was on the instructional team for the training course “Archaeology for Managers” in 1994, 1995, and 1997. He also served in 2000 as the lead cultural resources specialist for a FLETC training course on enforcement of the Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA).

Throughout his career, Noble was active in the governance of several professional organizations. He was twice director on the board of the Society of Professional Archeologists (SOPA). He also served on the founding board of directors for its successor organization, the Register of Professional Archeologists. He was a director and president of the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA). Other service to SHA included stints as memorials editor (1994-1997) and reviews editor (1997-2001) for Historical Archaeology. Noble was a member of a Steering Committee that was charged with incorporating the Midwest Archaeological Conference into a formal organization.

Among Noble’s honors, the Omaha-Lincoln Federal Executive Association granted him the Federal Employee of the Year Award in 1996. In 2011, Noble received the Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award from the SHA “for exceptional and sustained service to the programs, professionalism, and governance of the society.” More recently, he was the recipient of the National Park Service’s 2019 John L. Cotter Award for lifetime achievement in archeology.

To learn more about Noble’s career, read an interview in the August 2013 Archeology E-Gram.

Passing of Retired NPS Amistad National Recreation Area Archeologist Joe Labadie

Retired NPS archeologist Joseph H. Labadie died on June 12, 2019. He retired from the National Park Service in 2008 after spending his entire 27 year career at Amistad NRA as Park Archeologist, Museum Manager, and Cultural Resources Program Manager. Labadie received his M.A. in North American Archeology in 1987 from the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Labadie coordinated the cataloging of the park’s archeological museum collection of close to one million artifacts, and the volunteer program he built has logged more than 20,000 hours of volunteer service devoted to archeological field work and museum management programs, receiving Take Pride in America awards in 1988 and 1994. Among these many volunteers were dozens of graduate and undergraduate student interns whom Joe mentored, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in archeology, museums, and related fields. In 1999, he was awarded the John L. Cotter Award for excellence in NPS archeology programs.

Labadie authored numerous publications on cultural resource and heritage management subjects, including prehistoric and historic archeology, Native American pictographs, Spanish colonial missions, the 1836 Battle of the Alamo, 19th century U.S. military history, and the transcontinental railroad system. He was also a former Chairman of the Val Southwest Texas Junior College in Del Rio, Texas, for over 10 years.

by Jack Johnson, Amistad NRA Archeologist

Pipestone National Monument Conducts Post-Controlled Burn Archeology Project

Pipestone NM Cultural Resources Program Manager Anne Dowd led a team of archeologists who completed fieldwork for a surface survey of part of the park following a controlled burn. The park partnered with the Otoe-Missouria Tribe to document red Sioux argillite (pipestone) quarrying, groundstone production, and camping or habitation activities. Pipestone NM is in its entirety a National Register of Historic Places-eligible archeological site occupied from 5,000 years ago to the present day.

by Natalie Barber

From left to right: Anne Dowd, Emily Caselman, Vernon Haragara, David Mather, and Michael Sletto (NPS Photo)

ICOMOS Releases Report to Increase Engagement of Cultural Heritage in Climate Action

ICOMOS has released a new report entitled The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action. The report incorporates information and inspiration from the NPS Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy. The overall NPS approach of aligning cultural resource actions to all areas of climate change response (science, adaptation, mitigation, communication in the NPS Strategy) underlies this report’s goal to align global cultural heritage practice to the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The report was prepared under the scientific leadership of ICOMOS’s Climate Change and Heritage Working Group. Twenty-eight authors from 19 countries prepared the report to further the mobilization of the cultural heritage community to help meet the challenge of climate change. The report highlights ways that core considerations of cultural heritage intersect with the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. Cultural heritage supports climate adaptation in a variety of ways, including learning from past social adaptability to environmental change and leveraging pride of place and social values to guide contemporary resilience planning.
Climate change is already impacting communities and heritage globally, and these trends are rapidly worsening. The report provides a framework for systematically cataloguing the impacts of climate change drivers on six main categories of cultural heritage, including archeological sites, in order to evaluate and manage climate risks to cultural heritage and the positive role cultural heritage can play as a source of resilience. The report concludes that how we conceive of heritage and how we manage it will require updating. New, multi-disciplinary approaches will be required in areas such as heritage documentation, disaster risk reduction, vulnerability assessment, conservation, education and training as well as in the ways heritage sites are presented to visitors.

To read the full report, go to www.https://indd.adobe.com/view/a9a551e3-3b23-4127-99fd-a7a80d91a29e.

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**Integrated Coastal Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment at Colonial National Historical Park**

With Colonial NHP as the pilot, partners from the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center developed and tested a climate change vulnerability assessment approach that considers a subset of climate drivers and potential associated vulnerabilities of natural resources, cultural resources and facilities. The resulting report, *Integrated coastal climate change vulnerability assessment: Colonial National Historical Park*, and a companion methods report, *Method for integrated coastal climate change vulnerability assessment*, are now available. The method is relatively rapid, using best available science, relying on existing data, and capturing expert knowledge. Vulnerability is scored as low, moderate or high, based on exposure to climate drivers and sensitivity of each resource.

Common issues across divisions were identified as a way to look at shared vulnerabilities and opportunities for coordinated planning. Next steps for the park include determining priorities for adaptation actions.

To read the full report, go to [https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/627300](https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/627300); and [https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/626199](https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/626199)

*by Larry Perez*
Retired Bureau of Land Management Archaeologist Honored

Gay Kinkade, now retired, served as the BLM Safford archeologist from 1975 to 2003. He was honored with the Special Achievement Award by the Arizona Governor’s Archaeology Advisory Committee (GAAC), at the 17th annual Arizona Historic Preservation Conference on June 13, 2019. GAAC Chair Ian Milliken, State Historic Preservation Officer Kathryn Leonard and Governor’s Office of Administration and Economic Affairs policy adviser Kaitlin Harrier presented the award.

Kinkade built Safford’s cultural resource program from the ground up, including a file system and map atlas and reporting methods. More than 40 years later, the protocols are still in place. He surveyed thousands of acres and documented hundreds of archeological sites. Much of the research in the 1970s to the 1990s was conducted or assisted by Kinkade, or built upon his work.

Kinkade actively monitored sites, conducted Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) investigations and assisted law enforcement. He was a founding member of the Coronado Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society and was instrumental in developing the Safford Region Site Stewards Program. He recruited a dedicated group of volunteers to assist in protecting cultural properties. Kinkade trained site stewards to recognize cultural resources and to document them. They monitored known locations, helped record new sites, catalogued artifacts, and assisted with restoration projects. Two volunteers, Everett Murphy and Lee Dewester, won Governor’s Avocational Archaeologist Awards in 2014.

This is the second time that Kinkade’s work has been recognized. In 1997, he was named as the Land Manager of the Year by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer.

Senate Confirms Jorjani as Chair of Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

The US Senate has voted to confirm Aimee Jorjani as the first full-time chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). She was nominated by President Trump. Jorjani has 20 years of experience in government and cultural resources including both executive and legislative branches, and the non-profit sector. Jorjani’s career began on Capitol Hill working as a legislative aide to Rep. Paul Ryan (WI). She later moved to DOI and had several positions, including serving as the Deputy Secretary’s Special Assistant for Historic Preservation and as DOI’s first Department-wide Historic Preservation Officer. She has an MA in Historic Preservation from Goucher College.

Jorjani will complete a four-year term that began in January 2017. The full-time chairman position was created through the December 2016 enactment of the NPS Centennial Act, which contained amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) converting the current part-time chairman to a full-time position. When sworn in, Jorjani will succeed Milford Wayne Donaldson of California, who served two terms as ACHP chairman.

Ceremonial Shield to be Returned to Acoma Pueblo

A sacred ceremonial shield will be returned to the Pueblo of Acoma following a settlement agreement filed in U.S. District Court. The settlement orders the EVE Auction House in Paris, France, to release the shield into U.S. custody.
The FBI learned in May 2016 that the Paris auction house planned to sell the ceremonial shield later that month. A U.S. District Court complaint filed in July 2016 argued that the shield should be returned to the pueblo, because it had been stolen in violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Tribal leaders showed pictures of the shield to C.S., an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Acoma. Her grandfather, B.P.S., was the shield caretaker as the traditional kiva leader with the Pueblo. C.S. told FBI and BIA agents that the shield, which was more than 100 years old, had been stolen from her home in the 1970s. Members of the Pueblo of Acoma Historic Preservation Advisory also looked at the pictures and concluded that the shield was an authentic Acoma ceremonial item that had been “removed without authorization.”

Jerold Collings of Mule Creek provided the shield to the EVE Auction House. He said he had inherited it from his mother after her death in 1984. Collings worked with the Pueblo to authorize the auction house to return the shield. The EVE Auction House has long been accused of knowingly selling cultural items that were stolen from various tribes in the American Southwest.

In December 2018, another ceremonial shield was returned to the Acoma Pueblo after the Bureau of Indian Affairs recovered it from a Montana art gallery.

From story by Theresa Davis, Albuquerque Journal

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Investigates Shipwrecks**

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) staff successfully completed investigations of two 19th century shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico June 24-July 3, 2019. The team included eight scientists from USM and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, two archaeologists from BOEM, four remotely operated vehicle (ROV) crew members, an outreach specialist from USM’s Marine Education Center and a middle-school teacher from the NOAA Teacher at Sea program.

One shipwreck, at 5,700 feet below sea level, is one of the deepest found in the Gulf of Mexico to date. Lead SMU scientist Leila Hamdan said “We don’t know what [the ships] were doing. They might’ve been fishing vessels, might’ve been cargo vessels, but it’s very clear that both of them were sailing ships.” These discoveries “will give all of us a better understanding of the cultural and economic past.”

**The Federal Archeologists Bookshelf: Encountering Hopewell in the Twenty-first Century, Ohio and Beyond. Volume One: Monuments and Ceremony** Edited by Brian G. Redmond, Bret J. Ruby, and Jarrod Burks

The archeology of the ancient American Indian Hopewell earthwork-builders of the Ohio Valley has intrigued scientists and the public alike for more than 200 years. Since the dawn of the twenty-first century, professional inquiry into the Hopewell phenomenon has accelerated. Contemporary researchers are approaching old questions with new methods and interpretive perspectives, state-of-the-art survey technologies, and novel analytical techniques. As a result, our understanding of the Hopewell world has significantly deepened. A two-volume set will present some of the most current research on Hopewell archaeology within the Ohio Valley and beyond.

Volume One explores the monuments and ceremonies that stood at the heart of American Indian life during the Hopewell episode. Cutting-edge remote sensing studies and modern excavations add new
dimensions to our understanding of the richness and complexity of Hopewell ceremonial landscapes. Novel investigations of earthwork form, design, and orientation attest to the remarkable sophistication of Hopewell geometry and astronomy. Cross-cultural comparisons and contextual analyses help us understand how Hopewell peoples’ concepts of the soul may have motivated their ceremonial practices and structured their social relations. Studies of form, materials, and iconography shed light on the meanings and histories expressed in Hopewell art and craft.

The volume is available from the University of Akron Press. Use code UAP30 to celebrate the Press’ 30th anniversary and get 30% off.

GRANTS AND TRAINING

Yellowstone National Park Offers ARPA for Cultural Resource Professionals

Yellowstone NP is offering ARPA for Cultural Resource Professionals at the park on October 7-11, 2019. The course provides opportunities for cultural resource professionals (CRP) to hone skills in incident identification, investigation, documentation, rules of evidence, and testifying in court to carry out provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). Federal CRPs also work with private sector collections to build relationships of mutual trust that support stewardship goals and basic archeological knowledge.

This dynamic and interactive class is taught by experienced CRP and Law Enforcement instructors. You will learn about the nexus between ARPA and related laws, including NAGPRA, NHPA, and SURPA. While primarily used for cases involving the unlawful excavation of prehistoric and historic archeological sites, ARPA can be effectively applied to other types of incidents such as vandalism, arson, museum theft, and failure to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

• Articulate ARPA to lay and professional audiences
• Articulate and utilize the three costs and values used to provide monetary values to resources and damages to archeological resources
• Understand the steps required to produce a Resource Damage Assessment.
• Testify in court in support of the prosecution.

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Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship

First Nations Development Institute, in partnership with The Henry Luce Foundation, offers the Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship. Ten fellowships of $50,000 each are offered to outstanding Native Americans engaged in meaningful work that benefits Indigenous people and communities in either reservation and/or urban settings. These fellowships support the work of Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers as they significantly advance their work and spark transformative change in their communities.

The fellowship is a 12-month, self-directed enrichment program to support the growth, development, knowledge and networks of Native leaders. This unique and exciting new fellowship supports individuals from diverse fields and engaged in different modes of expression. The fellowship is open to both emerging and experienced leaders from fields including, but not limited to, agriculture, food systems,
youth leadership development, natural resource management, climate change, economic development, journalism, language and cultural revitalization, traditional and contemporary arts and more.

The application deadline is September 13, 2019.

For more information, go to https://www.firstnations.org/rfps/likf-1/

E-Mail for the E-Gram
For those of you who missed the June E-Gram, we were saddened to report that Larry Aten, archeologist and innovative leader of archeology and historic preservation programs at the National Park Service had died. Several people wrote to the E-Gram in June about his passing. Bill Fitzhugh wrote in to say, “Thanks for the sad news about Larry Aten. I knew and liked Larry very much.” Several staff from the NPS Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science Directorate who worked with Larry attended his memorial service.

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 on the NPS Archeology Program website.

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