



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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Release of Guidance on Conducting Archeological Site Condition Assessments and the Launch of the Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS), version 3.00J

The Archeology Program recently released a substantially updated guidance document "Guidance for Determining Archeological Site Condition and Recording It in ASMIS." It details the planning, field procedures, documentation, and training protocols that should be used to conduct site condition assessments on NP lands. It also provides clear definitions for determining subsequent site condition assessments after the first, baseline assessment is completed. This document is a result of excellent comments on three drafts from park, center, and regional archeologists over the last year. At the same time, the Archeology Program launched ASMIS 3.00J, and the ASMIS Data Dictionary, which adds important new data entry options for information about site condition.

Birds Point-New Madrid Archeological Peer Review Report Completed

The team of Drs. David Anderson (University of Tennessee), T.R. Kidder (Washington University, St. Louis), and Signa Larralde (BLM, New Mexico) completed their peer review of the 15-year program of archeological investigations done as part of the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway project. The Memphis District of the Army Corps of Engineers requested the peer review of the Floodway project, a 205-square mile catchment for floodwater just south of the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. The peer review team reviewed the archeological investigations done within the floodway area, evaluating the appropriateness, quality, and effectiveness of the research. Much of the archeological work was of very high quality; some areas for improvement were identified in the report recommendations. The final report has been sent to the District Engineer. The Departmental Consulting Archeologist and Archeology Program organize and coordinate such peer reviews as part of the archeological technical assistance provided by the NPS.

NPS Archeology Program provides Cultural Resource Session in New Superintendent Training

NPS Archeology Program staff Frank McManamon, Barbara Little, and Karen Mudar presented information about park cultural resources in the Capitol Training Center **New Park Superintendent Training** course held in Washington DC, June 21-30, 2006. The two breakout sessions, "The Leading Edge of Tradition: NPS Cultural Resources" and "Accountability, Performance, Reporting, and Funding for Cultural Resources," led by Little and McManamon, respectively, focused on identification and management of all cultural resources in National Parks. The PowerPoint presentations and reference materials for these sessions are available on the Archeology Program webpage of InsideNPS at <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=4444>.

Public Archaeology at Vancouver National Historic Reserve

Fort Vancouver NHS hosted an archeological field school in cooperation with Portland State University and Washington State University, Vancouver. Students participated in public interpretation as well as archeological survey, lab methods, and excavation. Vancouver National Historic Reserve in Vancouver, Washington has become a leader in public archeology in the region. The Reserve is a partnership of the National Park Service, the City of Vancouver, the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the U.S. Army. It includes Fort Vancouver and its village, Vancouver Barracks and Officer's Row, Pearson Field and Air Museum, portions of the Columbia River waterfront, the Water

Resources Education Center, and the McLoughlin House unit in Oregon City, Oregon. Fort Vancouver was the administrative headquarters and main supply depot for the Hudson's Bay Company's fur trading operations in the northwest. The archeological collection of 2 million objects has been collected over a half-century of archeological excavations and spans the Native American, Hudson's Bay Company, and U.S. Army occupations of the site. The catalog of these important collections is available to researchers online at <http://www.museum.nps.gov/fova/page.htm>.

Martha Graham, NPS Archeology Program, joins TRC

Martha Graham, NPS Archeology Program archeologist, has accepted a position with TRC Solutions in the Albuquerque, NM office. Martha received her BA, MA, and Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico, and is pleased to be returning to the Southwest. From 1989 to 1991 Martha was the Zuni and Ramah Water Rights Project Director, and in 1992 she accepted a position as the Director of Cultural Resources, American Museum of Natural History. In this position, Martha created and oversaw the museum's program for ensuring compliance with NAGPRA, and was responsible for the completion of the museum's NAGPRA inventory. Martha joined the NPS National NAGPRA program as a program officer in 2001 and was the NPS liaison with the NAGPRA Review Committee and the Preservation and Technology Training Board. She transferred from the National NAGPRA Program to the Archeology Program in 2004.

Martha's research focuses on the Raramuri of northern Mexico; she has received several fellowships from the National Museum of Natural History and the American Museum of Natural History to study Raramuri material culture, especially textiles. Martha brings a high level of expertise to this research, as she is a practicing weaver herself. Martha's friends and colleagues all wish her well in her research and in her new position.

Projects in Parks: Colonial NHP Carries out Underwater Survey

Between July 5 and July 15, 2006, archeologists at Colonial NHP and BRS Cultural Resource Specialists carried out an survey of the waters adjacent to Jamestown Island, VA. The survey identified 70 potential archeological sites while surveying the waters around the 7.8-mile perimeter of the island. Among their finds are 26 shipwrecks, including numerous barges approaching 100 feet in length as well as a 72-foot-long skipjack. Landings, wharves and piers were also identified, including one that may be linked to early 17th-century Virginia governor George Yeardley.

NPS employees who can access the NPS intranet can learn more about this project by going to **Projects in Parks** <<http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670>> on InsideNPS.

"Projects in Parks" is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that serves to inform others of interesting archeology-related projects in a national park. Past reports are available on the *Projects in Parks* webpage, accessed through the Archeology homepage, on InsideNPS.

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 National Park Service and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists and new subscribers are accepted. Past issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* are available on the *Archeology E-Gram* webpage, accessed through the Archeology homepage, on InsideNPS. Contact Karen Mudar, Archeology Program, NPS, at (202) 354-2103, karen_mudar@nps.gov to contribute news items, stories for "Projects in Parks," and to subscribe.