



## Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### September 2008 Archeology E-Gram

#### **Bennie Keel to Retire**

Bennie Keel, Supervisory Archeologist at the NPS Southeast Archeology Center, has announced his impending retirement. Bennie joined the NPS in 1976, after working at the Research Laboratories of Anthropology (University of North Carolina) and teaching at Wright State University. His Ph.D in anthropology is from Washington State University. He was Chief of Interagency Archeological Services in Atlanta from 1976 to 1980, and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1980 where he served as the Department of the Interior's Departmental Consulting Archeologist from 1980 to 1990. Coterminous with this position, Bennie served as the NPS Assistant Director for Archeology.

Bennie was instrumental in the development of the proposed and final uniform regulations for ARPA, and the development of the proposed and final regulations for "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections" (36 CFR 79). He also represented the Department of the Interior in developing reports, presenting testimony, and answering questions at hearings on legislation that preceded the enactment of the Abandoned Shipwreck Act. Bennie was also instrumental in developing position papers for the Department of the Interior for pre-NAGPRA legislation.

Within the Department and the NPS, Bennie played a key role in the development of NADB, the Secretary of the Interior's Report to Congress on the Federal Archeology Program, and the process for conducting peer reviews of archeological projects. He has published numerous papers and reports and has given many presentations on archeology.

Bennie's friends and colleagues wish him the very best for his retirement.

#### **Homestead Act Records Available Digitally**

Homestead National Monument of America and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) have announced new developments in the Homestead Records Project, a partnership effort to create searchable digital images of paper records created under the Homestead Act of 1862. The project partners are the National Archives, FamilySearch, Footnote.com, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and Homestead National Monument of America.

The Homestead Act allowed any qualified individual to claim up to 160 acres of land for settlement and cultivation. After five years residence and completion of improvements, the land became the private property of the claimant. The law became effective January 1, 1863, and remained in effect until 1986. Over those 123 years, the U.S. government distributed 270 million acres of land in 30 states. Every one of the four million recorded claims generated a paper record that still exists in the National Archives.

Two major developments were announced. An index to approximately 65,000 homestead records from the Broken Bow, Nebraska land office (1890-1908) is now available online. These records were microfilmed at the National Archives in 2006; monument and UNL volunteers have been indexing them for the past 18 months. The online index will be available to the public via the UNL website.

The second development is the beginning of a new digital homestead records initiative. The National Archives has agreed to the digitization of the 300,000 homestead documents from the Nebraska City/Lincoln U.S. land office, which operated from 1868 to 1925. Visitors to Homestead National Monument of America, all National Archives locations, all Family Search research centers, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be able to access the records free of charge. These records are a treasure trove of information about people that claimed land under the Homestead Act as well as the lasting changes that the law initiated in the U.S. and across the world.

For more information about Homestead National Monument of America go to [www.nps.gov/home/](http://www.nps.gov/home/)

### **New Historic Preservation Award**

Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne has announced the establishment of the Secretary's Historic Preservation Award to recognize the outstanding contributions of employees of Federal, State, and Tribal Preservation Offices and Certified Local Governments in the area of historic preservation. Each year, the Secretary will recognize one individual from each of four categories – Federal Preservation Offices, State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and Certified Local Governments. (NPS employees are not eligible for these awards).

Nominees are individuals whose contributions surpass the expected scope of their positions and whose creativity and expertise have fostered the overall goals of the National Historic Preservation Act. Nominations should concentrate on activities and accomplishments during the last two years (2007-2008). The deadline for submitting a nomination for the 2008 award is October 20, 2008.

More information about the award and an application can be found at [www.doi.gov/initiatives/preservation.html](http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/preservation.html).

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### **Navajo Nation seeks control of Canyon de Chelly**

Canyon de Chelly, near Chinle in the heart of the Navajo Nation, is a national monument that is entirely on reservation land. The Navajo call the canyon "Tsegi," which means "within the rock." The NPS currently manages the thousands of artifacts, archeological sites, and historic structures within the monument, while the land, revered by the Navajos as sacred, remains tribally owned. Now the Navajo Tribal Council is seeking full control of the 83,000-acre monument and the more than \$1.8 million in Federal funding that is used for its management that goes with it. Doing so would strengthen the tribe's sovereignty and demonstrate its expertise and competence in administering tribal land and resources to benefit Navajo people, supporters say. "It's a site that is very important in terms of not only the historical but also the cultural and spiritual aspects of the nation," said Arvin Trujillo, director of the tribe's Division of Natural Resources. "We are moving in a direction where we're becoming better equipped to take over some of these monuments."

NPS has various agreements with tribes whose reservations lie within a national park. Some allow tribes to manage a portion of the park, rebuild trails, restore watersheds, and hunt on tribal land, for example. In South Dakota, the NPS is considering returning complete control of the South Unit of Badlands NP to the Oglala Sioux. In 2000, Congress passed a law that allows the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe to completely manage tribal trust land within Death Valley NP. At Everglades NP in Florida, the Federal government has set aside a special reserved area for the Miccosukee Tribe within the park.

Patricia L. Parker, Chief, NPS American Indian Liaison Office, said tribes are encouraged to take a more active role in managing their lands, but no national monument has been completely turned over to a tribe. "If I were the tribe, I would take a good look at to what extent would the lands be better protected, what would be the benefits locally for having it be a tribal park rather than it be a national monument or park,

and I'm sure they're weighing the benefits," she said. The NPS, which employs about 25 people at Canyon de Chelly, says the Navajo Nation has every right to seek full control of the canyon.

If Congress approves the transfer, Canyon de Chelly likely would be added to a handful of tribal parks overseen by the Navajo Nation that include Monument Valley, Antelope Canyon, Marble Canyon and Four Corners. Teddy Halwood, president of the Canyon de Chelly/Canyon del Muerto Resident Association, contended the NPS has overstepped its boundaries on many occasions. Having the Navajo Nation run the canyon would mean more jobs for tribal members, better access to sacred sites and better protection of the tribe's resources, he said. "It would be in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oversee its own affairs," he said.

Adam Teller, president of Tsegi Dine, a group of canyon residents opposed to a takeover, said he doesn't believe the Navajo Nation has the expertise to manage the canyon and that the Tribal Council is going about it the wrong way. "They (residents) feel that it's kind of like a hostile takeover," he said. "I guess a lot of other parks and places that they look at that the Navajo Nation runs, they're very concerned our national monument is going to go the same way." About 80 Navajo people currently live in the canyon.

For more information about Canyon de Chelly National Monument, go to [www.nps.gov/cach/](http://www.nps.gov/cach/)

### **Energy Companies Mitigation Money May Protect Sites**

At Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, about 80 percent of the monument's 164,000 acres is leased for energy development and a giant new project to drill for carbon dioxide is gathering steam on the park's eastern flank. At Nine Mile Canyon in central Utah, truck exhaust on a road to the gas fields is posing a threat to 2,000 years of rock art and imagery, say environmentalists and Indian tribes.

Funding from resource extraction activities, however, may be helping to care for sites. The BLM, for example, in working out drilling plans at Canyons of the Ancients, is considering using mitigation money – the dollars drillers must post to ensure they have cleaned up after themselves – to finance volunteer efforts to police the backcountry. "They are part of the eyes and ears on the ground," said LouAnn Jacobson, an archeologist by training and manager of both the Canyons of the Ancients NM and the Anasazi Heritage Center. The USFS is considering a similar idea at Chimney Rock Archeological Area. Using energy mitigation money to support volunteer programs for policing and preventing vandalism, USFS officials said, could help extend the agency's budgets, which are being sapped by rising costs in other areas, especially fire protection.

A spokesman for the Independent Petroleum Association of America, which represents drilling companies, described helping defend historical sites as good for business, especially if financing volunteers created more contact and understanding between local residents and energy explorers.

For more information about Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, go to [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/nm/canm.html)

### **NPS Hosts Training in Interpretation of Archeological Resources**

The NPS Southeast Archeological Center, Division of Interpretation, Education, and Partnerships, and Yosemite NP are sponsoring "Effective Training of Archeological Resources." The class will be held November 3-7, 2008, at Yosemite, CA. This 5-day workshop will improve interdisciplinary communication skills for using a team approach to developing and carrying out effective public interpretation and education programs and products. Interpreters and educators will gain knowledge of archeology for developing presentations and media about archeological resources. Archeologists will gain knowledge and skills in interpretation for developing interpretive presentations and media about cultural resources. All groups gain knowledge and skills through increased dialogue and interactions between

archeologists and interpreters for joint development of effective interpretation of archeology products. Topics will include interpretation issues related to the archeology and history of Yosemite National Park; the archeology and history California and western North America; using an interdisciplinary team approach; sensitive interpretation and multiple perspectives; emerging technologies; and other subjects.

**Contact:** John Jameson, Southeast Archeological Center, e-mail [john\\_jameson@nps.gov](mailto:john_jameson@nps.gov), by close of business, October 10, 2008, to reserve a space.

**Projects in Parks: Of Adobe, Lime, and Cement: The Preservation History of the San José de Tumacácori Mission Church** by Jeremy Moss

The year 2008 marks the centennial of the establishment of Tumacácori National Monument in southern Arizona. The theme of Tumacácori's centennial celebration is "One Hundred Years of Preservation and Stewardship," in recognition of the preservation specialists, archeologists, historians, interpreters, masons, and maintenance workers who have strived to preserve the mission for future generations. Keeping with this theme, this article by Jeremy Moss summarizes the preservation history of San José de Tumacácori. Historic structures are more than their original fabric: they are part of past events and people's lives. By preserving historic structures, we are also preserving associated life ways, events, personal histories, religious beliefs, customs, and cultural values.

*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. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page [www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm) on the Archeology Program web site.

*Projects in Parks* is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in national parks. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* webpage on InsideNPS. The full reports are available on the *Projects in Parks* web page [inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670](http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670) on InsideNPS or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* on the *News and Links* page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the Archeology Program web site.

**Contact:** [dca@nps.gov](mailto:dca@nps.gov) to contribute news items, stories for "Projects in Parks," and to subscribe.