



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



April 2009 Archeology E-Gram

Susan Bender Leaves NPS

Susan Bender has left her position as archeologist at the Alaska Region Office to pursue her dream of owning her own business. She was the ASMIS coordinator for the Alaska Region for several years. She demonstrated a mastery of the technical skills necessary to maintain the databases and was the primary driving force in assuring that the Alaska Region's information was updated on time.

Susan is now the sole proprietor of "Compost Alaska," an erosion control company based in Anchorage. Susan will be consulting with construction workers about landscape and terrain features and determining how to best comply with Federal clean water regulations by installing filtering "socks" filled with compost. At her going away party, she admitted that her archeological training will come in handy in her new job. Although she is missed by all her NPS colleagues in Alaska, we wish her well in this new and exciting line of work!

Steve Adams Named NPS Midwest Region Cultural Resources Assistant Regional Director

Stephen "Steve" E. Adams, formerly superintendent of the Lewis and Clark NHT, is the new Associate Regional Director for Cultural Resources for the NPS Midwest Region. He studied anthropology at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and graduated with a bachelor of arts in 1970. Following military service in Vietnam, Adams received his master of arts in anthropology from the University of Arizona in 1974.

A 37-year veteran of Federal service, Adams' early NPS career included assignments focused on interpretation, cultural and natural resources management, visitor protection, archeology, and historic preservation at Padre Island NS, San Antonio Missions NHP, the Navajo Lands Group, and the Western Archeological and Conservation Center. He was chief of the cultural resources management branch in the Southwest Region. He transferred to Pea Ridge NMP as the superintendent in 1992, then served as superintendent at Brown v. Board of Education NHS for nearly five years, developing and opening the site before taking over the leadership role at Lewis and Clark NHT in July 2004.

As Associate Regional Director, Adams will be the principal advisor on cultural resources matters to 54 parks. This includes archeology, historic architecture and landscape, museum collections and records management, ethnography, and administration of the National Register program and National Historic Landmarks designations in the region.

NPS Submerged Resource Center Moves

The NPS Submerged Resource Center has moved. The new address is

National Park Service Submerged Resources Center
12795 W. Alameda Pkwy.
Denver, CO 80225

The center was formed in 1980 to inventory and evaluate submerged resources in the National Park System and to assist other agencies, nationally and internationally, with underwater heritage resource

issues. It is staffed by underwater archeologists and photographers to provide expertise as needed by managers of national parks with submerged lands. The Acting Chief is David L. Conlin.

For more information about the Submerged Resource Center, go to www.nps.gov/submerged

Live Civil War Artillery Shell Found and Removed from Petersburg NB

A visitor to the Petersburg NB reported finding an object resembling a cannonball on March 24 and led park staff to the location, where they determined that the object was a Civil War artillery shell. The park contacted the Virginia State Police bomb squad, who removed the round to a remote area outside the park and rendered it safe. The park curator identified the ordnance as a Confederate twelve-pounder shell, possibly a Napoleon round, the most commonly used artillery projectile during the Civil War. It also could have been fired from a twelve-pounder howitzer. Both smoothbore cannons could fire this round, filled with black powder, as far as three quarters of a mile. The shell should have exploded before hitting the ground. This ordnance was discovered almost a year to the day from when the last artillery round, an eight-inch mortar shell, was found in the park. The shell will be placed in the park museum collection and information about its location will be documented for further research. Specifics on the location have been withheld from the public to deter relic hunters.

For more information about Petersburg NB, go to www.nps.gov/pete/

Carol Shull in Washington Post

Carol Shull, Chief of Heritage Education Services, was featured in the Washington Post on April 17, 2009. Shull, who has worked in the NPS since 1972, created the ‘Teaching with Historic Places’ program. The program uses historic properties, including archeological sites, listed in the National Register of Historic Places to enhance traditional classroom instruction of history, social studies, geography, and other core subjects. The heart of the program is a series of 135 online class-room ready lesson plans based on the National Register list.

Shull also founded the NPS ‘Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary Series,’ created in partnership with National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, other government agencies, and private organizations. The 47 online travel itineraries in the ongoing series feature more than 2,000 historic places, including archeological sites, in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and some U.S. territories. The most recent itinerary, ‘American Presidents,’ aids travelers in exploring the lives and contributions of 43 American Presidents.

“Learning from historic places can be powerful and transformative,” said Shull. “People of all ages can enjoy and learn from authentic historic properties that embody and illustrate our history and give our communities their unique character and identity.”

To read the entire article, go to www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/17/AR2009041702618.html

To learn more about Teaching with Historic Places and the Shared Heritage Travel Itineraries, go to the April 2007 and December 2007 Archeology E-Gram www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm

UNESCO World Digital Library Launched

A website offering free access to rare books, maps, manuscripts, films and photographs from across the globe was launch April 21 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Its cultural content from libraries and archives worldwide is available in seven languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish - and includes material in additional languages. UNESCO and 32 partner institutions launched the project, which was developed by the world's biggest library, the US Library of

Congress. The World Digital Library was the brainchild of the Librarian of Congress, James Billington, who attended the launch of a prototype website for the project in Paris in October 2007. Libraries and cultural institutions from Brazil, Britain, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the United States contributed both content and expertise to the project to digitize priceless cultural material and make it available on the Internet.

To use the World Digital Library, go to www.worlddigitallibrary.org

BLM Produces Film on Southwest Indians

Surrounded by snow-capped mountains, a vast plateau interrupted by numerous canyons stretches from Cortez, Colorado, northwestward into Utah. A productive agricultural region today, the Great Sage Plain contains numerous ruins of an ancient civilization that puzzled the earliest European explorers but resonates today in its living Native American descendants. For the past hundred years, archeologists and Native people have collaborated to paint the picture and tell the story of the vibrant culture that once thrived here. *The Cultural Heritage of the Great Sage Plain* is the latest video feature on the nonprofit streaming-media web site, *The Archaeology Channel*. This compelling story is the subject of the ancestral Puebloan people in Colorado and Utah who developed a remarkable culture and agricultural adaptation before moving their settlements southward centuries ago. The BLM Anasazi Heritage Center produced this film to share the story.

To view the video, go to www.archaeologychannel.org.

Archeology Internship at Grand Canyon NP

The Grand Canyon Association (GCA) is currently accepting applications for an internship program at Grand Canyon NP. Successful applicants will have an opportunity to gain professional experience, develop working relationships with NPS resource managers, and contribute to the preservation and protection of the Grand Canyon. Based at Grand Canyon Village on the South Rim, the internship will support the park's Archeology Program which inventories, monitors, and manages archeological resources within the park. Currently, just over 4,000 sites have been documented. Sites range from the Paleo-Indian to historic periods with most sites associated with Ancestral Puebloans, dating between AD 900 and 1100. Site types include pueblos, granaries, rock art, artifact scatters, and historic sites.

The primary focus of the internship will be conducting site monitoring at various locations on the North and South Rims. Activities include visiting previously recorded sites, assessing impacts and threats to the sites, updating photographs, using GPS to log site locations, and documenting the overall site condition. After a short training period, the incumbent will be expected to work largely independently. The intern will enter all field data into the Grand Canyon Archeological Database and prepare a report documenting their findings. The precise scope of the intern's project will be determined based on their interest and skills. The applicant may have an opportunity to assist with other projects such as site inventory and ruins preservation.

For more information or to apply, e-mail a cover letter, resume, and reference contact information to: Leona Begishie, PO Box 399, Grand Canyon Association, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023.

Projects in Parks: Archeological Stewardship in National Parks: "It Takes a Village"

Archeological resources are essential American heritage, and listed in the enabling legislation of nearly two thirds of our national parks. The stewardship of archeological resources, however, was a function of the Federal government decades before the NPS was created. From the beginning, this stewardship has involved the efforts of many Americans. Citizens concerned about vandalism of the ancient Casa Grande ruins, located between Phoenix and Tucson in Arizona, in the 1880s successfully petitioned Congress to

protect and preserve the site. In 1892, a Federal preserve was created and within a few years, structural conservation work at the ruins by archeologists from the Smithsonian Institution was underway. In 1906, passage of the Antiquities Act, the designation by President Theodore Roosevelt of Montezuma Castle National Monument and El Morro National Monument, and the creation of Mesa Verde National Park expanded the Federal government's archeological resource stewardship role.

Enactment of the Antiquities Act culminated a quarter-century of advocacy by concerned citizens, national institutions, government officials, political leaders, and regional boosters. This generation-long effort involved a diverse group, which is reflected by the wide range of experts and specialists who contribute to effective archeological stewardship in the 21st century.

In 1916, the NPS was created with the key responsibility of managing national parks, monuments, and reservations

... by such means and measures...[that will] conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects [including archeological resources] and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations (16 USC 1).

Concerns for their preservation and careful treatment arose at the same time as concerns for the long term conservation of natural resources and scenic areas like Yellowstone and other early national parks.

Archeological stewardship has become more scientific and systematic since those early days. Those who are now responsible for ensuring that the correct treatments are applied to archeological resources learn from past practices. We follow procedures that have worked to preserve and protect archeological resources. Future stewardship, in turn, will be improved by careful attention to and repetition of effective current practices.

One current effort that demonstrates a systematic approach to archeological stewardship in the NPS is the development of a module within the Facilities Management Software System, specifically for maintained archeological sites. Many archeological sites are maintained actively through treatment, such as wall stabilization, masonry repointing, or erosion control. Some treatments are needed to ensure that an archeological site is safe for public interpretive programs or that the site's condition does not deteriorate due to public use. Other sites, threatened with erosion by water or wind, need to be stabilized periodically. Regular maintenance activities, such as site burial or creation of an artificial barrier to restrain natural or induced erosion, sometimes are necessary. Good archeological stewardship requires that appropriate treatments for sites are integrated into the overall NPS maintenance program.

Archeological site maintenance highlights a crucially important aspect of archeological stewardship—it is not an activity that is, or can be, carried out only by archeologists. NPS archeologists provide the expertise to identify, evaluate, and document archeological resources, and they are essential sources of knowledge about local history and prehistory. Archeologists should be integral participants in all aspects of park management. However, if good archeological resource stewardship is to be realized, archeologists cannot be the only experts involved. Park interpreters; law enforcement officers; maintenance specialists such as masons and landscapers; park superintendents; and the public all play an important part in archeological resource protection.

At Independence NHP, for example, the park was confronted with a large archeological collection from important sites on Independence Mall that had to be cataloged before it could be accessioned into the park collection for long term maintenance and use. The outside partner whose activity had required the

investigations that resulted in the collection were reluctant to commit funding for cataloging and curation of the collection. Eventually, the park was able to integrate the cataloging activity into its interpretive program and the outside partner provided support for the cataloging project and curation. The superintendent and senior park staff all were essential in bringing about this positive outcome. NPS archeologists throughout the park system are engaged in such cooperative projects for archeological stewardship every day.

This kind of cooperation is essential because a wide range of expertise, much of it beyond the training and experience of archeologists, is necessary for effective archeological resource stewardship. Also, the NPS is responsible for a large number of archeological resources which cannot be adequately cared for by the approximately 210 NPS archeologists (this number includes both about 160 permanent positions and other temporary appointments in 2009) available. There are nearly 70,000 archeological sites recorded and documented in the NPS archeological inventory system (Archeological Sites Management Information System). NPS archeologists estimate that there are many more sites as yet undiscovered and undocumented. In addition, the NPS National Catalog includes millions of archeological artifacts and other material, data, and records, collected from NPS archeological sites that must be cared for and made accessible for cultural, educational, interpretive, management, and scientific uses. Finally, there are thousands of archeological reports that provide information about NPS archeological sites that are essential for management, public interpretation, research, and resource protection.

Ensuring that the NPS consistently provides good archeological resource stewardship is likely to become more challenging in the next decades. Changes in climate are increasing temperatures, changing weather patterns, and raising sea levels. Wildland fires in parks are becoming more frequent. Fire events and the rehabilitation activities that are necessary to restore natural systems afterwards can adversely affect archeological sites in the fire areas. Rising sea levels and storm surges already are eroding archeological sites from Acadia NP and Cape Cod NS to park units along the Bering Sea.

NPS archeologists, along with colleagues in a variety of other professions and specialties, will be needed to meet these challenges. However, current hiring and retirement patterns among NPS archeologist positions indicate that retirements are far outpacing new hiring, and have been for at least the past decade. As a result, any key NPS archeologist positions are vacant or temporarily filled. It may be that by its centennial year, 2016, the NPS will find itself with 40% fewer archeologists that it had at the turn of the 21st century. This is no way to begin a second century of archeological resource stewardship. Linking and strengthening Federal stewardship and an educated public will ensure that archeological resources will be available into the 21st century and beyond.

Adapted from *It Takes a Village: Archeological Stewardship in National Parks* (2009) by Francis P. McManamon. Used with permission of Editorial Advisor, Mark E. Herberger and Editor Teresa Ford. *Ranger: The Journal of the Association of Park Rangers* 25(2):6-7.

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 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 on InsideNPS or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* on the on the *News and Links* page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the Archeology Program web site.

Contact: dca@nps.gov to contribute news items, stories for “Projects in Parks,” and to subscribe.