



Hopewell Happenings

Park seeks nomination to World Heritage List

by Brandi Harmon
Park Ranger

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park with the cooperation of the Ohio Historical Society campaigned early this year to gain nomination to the World Heritage List.

The properties involved include Hopewell Culture's five park units and two sites managed by the state, the Newark Earthworks and Fort Ancient Earthworks.

The World Heritage List currently consists of 830 sites of the most outstanding examples of natural and cultural heritage. What makes the concept of World

Heritage exceptional is its universal application. World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

Among the reasons Hopewell Culture is seeking to gain nomination are:

- The sites become part of the world's heritage meaning that not only the United States will protect them but the entire world will protect them
- Ohio will become recognized globally as an important cultural area
- Tourists from all around the world will come to visit the area
- State and local government officials will be made more aware of the need to identify and protect cultural and natural sites in Ohio.



The Ohio Historical Society recently commissioned The "Ancient Ohio" Art Series to depict prehistoric times. This illustration, "The Middle Woodland Period (ca. 2,100-1,500 BP)," features several noteworthy Hopewell artifacts. The scene portrays a shaman using both his practical knowledge as an herbalist and his connections to the spirit world to help his patient. (Courtesy of Ohio Historical Society)

Of the 830 sites currently included on the list, 20 exist in the United States. Those sites include eight of outstanding cultural heritage: The Statue of Liberty, Mesa Verde, Independence Hall, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, La Fortaleza, and San Juan Historic Site in Puerto Rico, Chaco Culture NHP, Monticello and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and Pueblo de Taos.

The remaining 12 sites are considered to be of great natural heritage significance: Yellowstone NP, Grand Canyon NP, Everglades NP, Redwood NP, Mammoth Cave NP, Olympic NP, Great Smoky Mountains NP, Yosemite NP, Hawaii Volcanoes NP, Carlsbad Caverns NP, Waterton- Glacier International Peace Park, Glacier Bay NP, and Kluane/Wrangle- St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini- Alsek National Parks and Preserves. The United States has more natural sites than any other country.

The concept of World Heritage was developed and adopted in 1972 by the seventeenth session of the General Conference

of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France.

The concept strongly affirms the conservation of heritage of outstanding universal value, both cultural and natural and heritage which is immovable and irreplaceable. The first international mobilization by UNESCO to save a heritage site followed a decision in the 1950's to build the Aswan High Dam in Egypt. The flooding of the Nile River valley, containing some of the most remarkable treasures of ancient Egyptian civilization, aroused international concern and alerted the world community to the need for swift coordinated, protective action.

For more information, contact Hopewell Culture NHP at any of the addresses listed on page 12, visit the World Heritage site at whc.unesco.org or the Ohio Historical Society at (800) 686- 6124 or ohiohistory.org.



Signature projects drive Centennial Challenge

America is planning a big 100th birthday party for its national parks. This celebration is so big that planning and preparations are starting nine years ahead of time. Called the “Centennial Challenge,” this initiative is to kick off with next year’s federal budget. The president’s budget proposal for the 2007- 2008 fiscal year, which is being considered by Congress as this publication is going to press, proposes increases for the National Park Service. Next year’s proposed increase, and proposed increases for each year until 2016, are aimed at increasing public programs and services, restoring visitor services impacted by budget constraints, rehabilitating facilities, and stimulating donations for “signature projects” in the parks. A similar initiative, known as

“Mission 66,” was undertaken for the fiftieth anniversary of the National Park Service in 1966 and one re-

sult was the current visitor center at Mound City. For Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, the president’s budget for the coming year proposes an additional \$113,000 targeted for additional rangers, which will allow the park to have a regular presence at our new units at Hopewell Mound Group, and Seip Earthworks.

The National Park Service’s five- year construction plan includes two projects for Hopewell Culture NHP. In the 2009- 2010 fiscal year, the park is scheduled to build a new museum collection storage building. The vast majority of the park’s museum collection is not on display; rather it is stored in a 1950s bomb shelter with all of the humidity problems that come from being in a basement. The erratic humidity is very damaging to the 2,000- year- old copper artifacts. The new building, which will be located in the park’s maintenance and administrative area, will correct these problems and provide space for artifacts from more recent excavations. The second project will be an overhaul of the museum exhibits in the visitor center. The current exhibits are almost thirty years old and lack information on four units of the park.

Another exciting aspect of the “Centennial Challenge” is \$100 million a year for matching non- federal funds raised by partners for “signature projects.” It is hoped that each of the 390 units of the National Park System will get at least one “signature project” to commemorate the NPS centennial and help the parks meet their resource preservation and visitor service goals. The parameters for this portion of the “Centennial Challenge” are not set yet, but the parks are beginning to develop ideas for “signature projects.”



by Dean Alexander
Superintendent

“The Department of the Interior, which oversees the National Park Service, has approved our proposal to add the earthworks at Spruce Hill near Bourneville to the park.”



Here at Hopewell Culture NHP we are looking at:

- Supplementing the funds for the museum rehabilitation to expand the museum
- Building a visitor contact facility at Hopewell Mound Group
- Developing a visitor contact facility at Seip Earthworks
- Speeding up the native grassland restoration of Hopewell Mound Group, High Bank Works, Hopeton Earthworks, and Seip Earthworks
- Adding Spruce Hill to the park and acquiring lands there
- Build visitor facilities at High Bank Works
- Build visitor facilities at Hopeton Earthworks
- Build the trail bridge over Sulphur Lick and complete the Adena Recreational Trail; and/or
- Develop a joint museum/visitor center with the Ohio Historical Society in conjunction with our hoped for designation of the park, Fort Ancient, and the Newark Earthworks as World Heritage Sites.

This list tips off the reader to two other initiatives that are in the works – adding Spruce Hill to the park and getting the park designated a World Heritage area. The Department of the Interior, which oversees the National Park Service, has approved our proposal to add the earthworks at Spruce Hill near Bourneville to the park. Legislation to expand the park will likely be introduced this year. This legislation would give the NPS the authority to buy the land; the money to make the purchases would come later. In the meantime, I am working with various non- profit groups to purchase the property and hold it until Congress appropriates funds for the purchase.

The other proposal in the works is a joint application with the Ohio Historical Society to have a group of the monumental earthworks built by the Ohio Hopewell culture honored as World Heritage Sites. The five units of Hopewell Culture NHP and two sites owned by the Ohio Historical Society, Fort Ancient and the Newark Earthworks, have been submitted for consideration on the United States tentative list for 2009 to 2019. In addition a separate nomination was submitted for Serpent Mound and SunWatch Village. After review in Washington, we will know if the proposal has made the list by early 2008.

In the near term, if you can’t wait for 2016, the park will be opening a new loop trail at Hopewell Mound Group that will give the public a chance to view a 2,000- year- old intact wall and to get a sense of how large these monumental earthworks were. Also look for new wayside exhibits at Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, and Seip Earthworks before the end of the year.

And then, just as the centennial celebrations for the National Park Service wrap up, it will be time to celebrate the centennial of World War One Camp Sherman in 2017.



Park strives to protect area's only hilltop enclosure

The proposed addition of the Spruce Hill Works to Hopewell Culture NHP would preserve the last remaining hilltop enclosure in a region where there once may have been more than a dozen.

The park currently protects and interprets five of the finest examples of lowland geometric earthworks. Hilltop enclosures are among the least studied and least understood aspects of the Hopewell culture's prehistoric monumental architecture.

Located near Bourneville, Ohio about 12 miles from park headquarters, Spruce Hill features a low, broad heap of undressed, jumbled sandstone ringing the brow of a plateau overlooking Paint Creek. The height of the structure measures less than two feet in most places, but becomes more prominent at four apparent gateways. The total circumference of the 140-acre earthwork is about two miles.

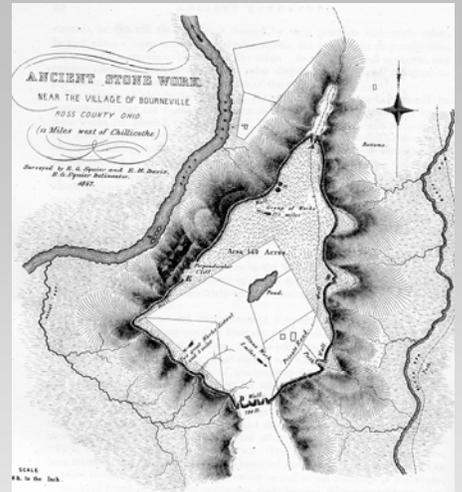
Archeologists believe it was built and used by Ohio Hopewell populations between about AD 1 and AD 400.

The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on Feb. 23, 1972.

Subsequent examinations discovered prehistoric ceramics, chert debitage and prismatic blades that provide unambiguous evidence of a Hopewellian cultural affiliation. Also found was abundant evidence of intense fires that burned hot enough to fuse stone. Some have suggested this may be evidence of ceramic furnaces or signal fires.

Opinions remain divided about the larger purpose of hilltop enclosures. Early writers universally interpreted them in terms of fortification and siegecraft. More recent interpretations suggest they had multiple uses including defense, ceremony, and habitation.

Further study at Spruce Hill could broaden our understanding about the relationship between hilltop enclosures and lowland geometric earthworks, and whether the two types of sites were used by the same or different groups within Hopewell society at the same or different times.



This drawing of the Spruce Hill Works was rendered in the 1840s by archeologists Ephraim Squier and Edwin Davis.

For a map and descriptions of the park's existing five sites, please see page 12.

New trail, wayside exhibits to enhance visitor experience

This could prove to be a year of pivotal changes for the experience of visitors at Hopewell Culture NHP.

The park entrance fee has been dropped permanently.

More than three miles of brand new walking trails and wayside exhibits are opening at the Hopewell Mound Group.

Interpretive displays and wayside exhibits that have served as the basis of self-guided tours for more than a generation are being replaced at the Mound City Group and Seip Earthworks.

FEE BECOMES FREE

Facing a steep, mandated increase in park entrance fees – from \$5 to as much as \$20 for a family – officials at Hopewell Culture NHP asked and received permission from the National Park Service to drop the fee altogether on October 1, 2006.

The proposed increase was believed to be prohibitively high for a park that relies so greatly upon casual and reoccurring visits. Entrance fees represent only a fraction of the park's operating revenue. There have been times, officials have noted, when it has cost the park more money to collect, account for and safeguard the fees than it gains by enforcing them. Continued participation in the fee program also could have been problematic given there was no workable plan to collect fees at the park's unstaffed outlying sites.

Nationwide and senior park passes will continue to be available for purchase by check or credit card at the visitor center. Cash is no longer accepted at the park's official entry station.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

A fresh perspective on ancient resources comes this year with the installation of 31 new interpretive panels at three park sites – 13 at Mound City, 12 at Seip Earthworks, and six at the Hopewell Mound Group. A two-year design and review process included consultation with nine American Indian tribal groups.

Many of the previous displays were first erected thirty years ago in 1977. In addition to showing signs of their age, the old displays proffer information and interpretive themes that are considered greatly outdated. They don't reflect more than 30 years of additional excavation and research, for instance, or more contemporary interest or emphasis upon Hopewell ways of life or the significance that these studies have had upon the history and science of archeology.

The changes are expected to bring lasting improvements to the experience of more than 30,000 visitors each year to Mound City

Park Rangers Sara Jones and Laura Murphy with a 1977 cast metal wayside exhibit that is due to be replaced this year.

and as many as 40,000 people who visit Seip each year.

(Continued on next page)





Mound City Group National Monument in 1927. (Courtesy of Ohio Historical Society)

Park reaches crystal anniversary of new name, added sites

Hopewell Culture NHP this year marks the 15th anniversary of its official rebirth on May 27, 1992, the day that Congress changed its name, expanded the Hopeton Earthworks and authorized the acquisition of three additional sites – High Bank Works, Hopewell Mound Group, and Seip Earthworks.

Mound City Group National Monument was first established on March 2, 1923 when President Warren G. Harding cited authority in the 1906 Antiquities Act and signed Proclamation 1653 to safeguard 57

acres of archeological features along the Scioto River. Twenty-five days later, Secretary of War Dwight F. Davis executed a “revocable license” to the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society to preserve and protect the historic mounds.

In 1946, after 22 years that ended with a period of some considerable local controversy, the license was canceled and the site was turned over to the National Park Service because it appeared that it was being managed primarily as a roadside recreation and picnic area.

Hopewell Culture NHP has since grown to encompass five premier archeological sites amounting to more than 1,200 acres in Ross County, Ohio. Considered to be the epicenter of a far-reaching society more than 2,000 years ago, the area is now highly regarded as one of the first places on the planet where archeology developed into a modern science. It is currently under consideration, along with two properties managed by the Ohio Historical Society, for nomination to the prestigious World Heritage List.

Changes to enhance experience

(Continued from previous page)

MAKING TRAILS

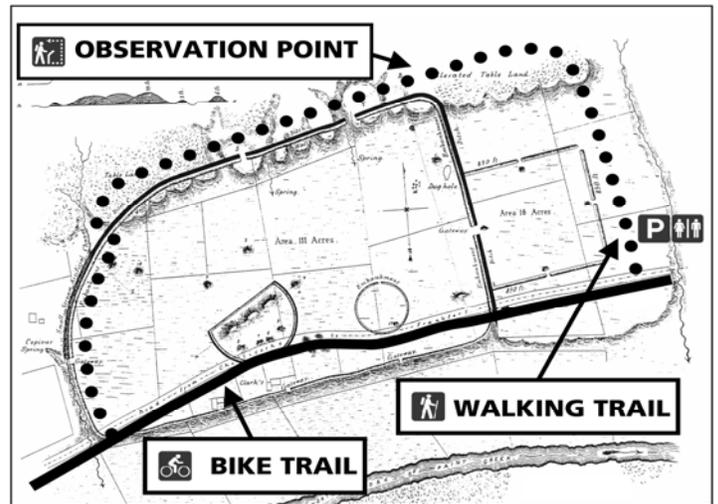
Park officials project as many as 50,000 people a year could come to appreciate a host of changes that are in the works for the Hopewell Mound Group. The site is located on Sulfur Lick Road near Maple Grove Road about six miles from park headquarters.

More than three miles of new walking trails, designated overlooks and interpretive wayside exhibits are scheduled for completion this year. Visitors will now have safe and ready access to see stretches of six-foot embankments that have remained intact for more than 2,000 years.

Requests to visit the property are common from school groups, universities and archeological organizations. It is the official “type site” that archeologists use to define and discuss the characteristics of the Hopewell culture, a remarkable prehistoric society that held influence for about 700 years from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rocky Mountains and the upper Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

Public access through the property had been limited previously by overgrown vegetation, trip hazards and concerns about causing damage to archeological resources. The 300-acre site spans two terraces above an active flood plain of the North Fork of Paint Creek.

An estimated 12,000 people already visit a portion of the site each year to access the Tri-County Triangle Trail. This scenic seven-mile stretch of a former railroad right-of-way between Frankfort and Chillicothe is especially popular with local bikers,



A new trail, overlooks and wayside exhibits at the Hopewell Mound Group will give visitors access to embankments that are 2,000 years old.

birders, runners and skaters. A new parking area and comfort station opened in 2006. A general management plan calls for building and staffing a multi-purpose visitor contact station on the property.

Early archeologists named the site for a former landowner, Captain Mordecai Cloud Hopewell, a Confederate veteran of the Civil War. Due to farming practices and primitive early archeological excavation techniques, the original appearance of the earthworks is now only vaguely recognizable across the open landscape.



Volunteer efforts make park work

Hopewell Culture NHP benefited greatly from the contributions of as many as 35 volunteers in the past two years. During 2005- 2006, "Volunteers- In- Parks" participants donated 4,463 hours to a variety of important programs and projects.

Six individuals volunteered more than 100 hours each – Ralph Keaton (1,483 hours), Joe McMahon (213 hours), Bill Partee (145 hours), Ethan Jones (140 hours), Troy Moore (118), and Dave Hess (101 hours).

Three others – Kristen Byler, Rachel Stinson, and Daniel Watson – volunteered as Student Conservation Association Interns.

Among the active projects and ongoing accomplishments of VIP participants were the restoration of native trees, grasses, and forbs, bird research and education, recycling programs, archeological research, frog and toad surveys, pond- breeding salamander surveys, mussel identification and collection, invasive plant control, as well as identification, collection, and preservation of insect species.

For more information about volunteer opportunities in the park, contact Myra Vick at (740) 774- 1126. Among the specific events scheduled for this year are —

- Hopewell Mound Group Clean- up Day on Saturday, April 28. Help plant native prairie plants near the parking lot area (A free lunch is provided)
- Fall workshop for native prairie seed collection — participants will be trained to identify and collect seeds and to assist park technicians with projects to reseed areas with native prairie plants
- Frog & toad survey— March, April, May, and June
- Pond breeding survey— May and June
- Invasive plant control — ongoing through spring and summer months
- Invertebrate study — ongoing.

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Three park volunteers help Biologist Myra Vick (top) prepare for an aquatic program in Paint Creek near the Seip Earthworks.

Biology class returns to Paint Creek

by Susan Kinsley
Park Ranger

Students of Cathy Daugherty's high school biology classes at Paint Valley High School in Bainbridge, Ohio will conduct stream studies of invertebrates and other species in Paint Creek again this spring.

Park interpreters and biological technicians from Hopewell Culture NHP have been working closely with Daugherty's classes since 2002.

Information and research obtained from these studies assist the natural resource staff with ongoing monitoring of the Seip Earthworks Unit and its surrounding ecology with the Paint Creek.

The high school students benefit from practical field experience working with qualified field technicians and ranger staff while doing projects in their school's backyard.

Stream bank erosion heightens priorities

College students from Nebraska, Virginia, Ohio and Illinois assisted researchers from the Midwest Archeological Center with a data recovery project adjacent to the Hopewell Mound Group in June and July 2006.

Previous studies led to the conclusion that the site may have been in use when the nearby earthworks were in operation and that it could contain valuable data



The North Fork of Paint Creek

about Hopewell settlement patterns.

The project was considered a priority because archeological resources were being threatened by stream bank erosion. The National Park Service decided it was necessary to protect the site from further damage.

The study concentrated on four 20 x 20 meter blocks that were selected through geophysical survey as potentially containing archeological resources.

A distinctive collection of materials were found, including tetrapodal pots, bone tools, mica, and bladelets. This suggests specialized activities took place here.

Analysis of materials from the site, including radiocarbon studies, is ongoing. A sample of feature fill was gathered for flotation and further processing that may supply information about seasonality at the site.

For details, please visit the MWAC's online Hopewell Archeology Newsletter at www.cr.nps.gov/mwac/hopewell.



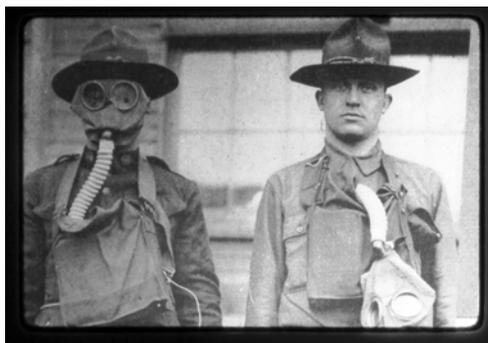
Camp Sherman exhibit improves with new panels

by Sara Jones
Park Ranger

An exhibit about Camp Sherman at Hopewell Culture NHP was greatly improved in 2006 with the addition of nine new interpretive panels detailing previously underserved topics regarding the camp. New topics include the 1919 global influenza pandemic, the impact on Mound City, training, recreation, and women at Camp Sherman.

The new panels, which have joined a permanent exhibit in the park theater, will give visitors a better idea of what was happening around the area in the early 1900s. Previously, only pictures of the camp and soldiers that were training there were displayed. The addition of text to support the pictures encourages learning about different aspects of Camp Sherman that may have not been thought about previously.

Camp Sherman was the third largest training facility in the United States during World War I. It consisted of 2,000 buildings including barracks, laundry facilities, theaters, YMCAs, a Knights of Columbus hall, more than 20 miles of streets and a hospital large enough to care for more than 1,800 people. The camp barracks were built on top



Camp Sherman was the third largest training facility in the U.S. during World War I. Hopewell Culture NHP might not exist here today if the property had not once been part of the giant military base.

of earthworks that were later preserved as part of the Mound City Group National Monument.

As many as 40,000 soldiers trained at Camp Sherman at any one time. By the time the war ended, 124,502 soldiers had trained there. It served four divisions of the U.S. Army – the 83rd, 84th, 95th, and 96th. The town of Chillicothe grew from 16,000 to 60,000 people as soldiers and their families poured into town.

A computer database search is available to park visitors throughout the year. It enables a person to find information about soldiers who served at Camp Sherman based on military records of Ohio enlistments between 1908 and 1928.

The park welcomes information as well as donations of camp memorabilia, photographs and letters.

Bird Day activities explore global climate change

Climate change is the official focus of the 2007 International Migratory Bird Day.

The Scioto Valley Bird and Nature Club and Hopewell Culture NHP are hosting a local event at the park – including bird and wildflower walks, bird banding demonstrations and projects to take home – on Saturday, May 5, from 7 a.m. to noon. The Ohio Wildlife Center will offer a live-bird display and a “Wildlife Encounters” demonstration at 10:30 a.m.

The National Park Service is a supporter of IMBD, an international outreach event that celebrates and supports migratory bird conservation.

Birds have long been indicators of environmental change, sounding the alarm about the effects of pesticides, polluted water, and the loss of contiguous forest. Changes in bird diversity may occur and result in range shifts, changes in nesting and feeding habitats, and effects upon migratory stopovers. Models of climate change project that the range of several state birds could shrink or even shift entirely outside of the states that use them as a symbol. Changes may also occur in the timing of migration, egg laying, and the foraging and nesting of seabirds.

For more information, contact the park, visit www.birdday.org or www.svnc.org.



Seniors groups most especially welcome here

Seniors have always been most especially welcome at Hopewell Culture NHP. But now that the park entrance fee is completely free year round to all persons and groups, rangers hope to encourage even more visits from senior centers and social organizations.

There may actually come a day when, based upon projections of human longevity and population demographics, there could be just as many motor coaches and tour vans parked outside the visitor center as traditional bright yellow buses from elementary schools.

Activity leaders and trip organizers may find it helpful to review the field trip guidelines published on page 10 for general information about scheduling a group visit to the park. The visitor center, which includes a museum, theater, bookstore and clean restrooms, is fully accessible and air-conditioned. Based on the interests and abilities of your group, rangers can either lead an hour-long tour of the entire mound area or simply answer questions and interpret a few highlighted features from a sheltered, overlooking patio area.

For information on combining your group visit with other activities and attractions in the area, contact the Ross-Chillicothe Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 413-4118, or info@visithistory.com. Complete information for contacting Hopewell Culture NHP is published on page 12.

As an added incentive, seniors may wish to visit the park's official entry station inside the visitor center to purchase a *Senior Access Pass* for \$10. Proof of identity such as a driver's license, birth certificate or similar document is also required.

This lifetime pass, which replaced the popular *Golden Access Pass* in January, is available only to U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or older. It covers entrance and standard amenity fees at all federal recreation sites throughout the country – including all properties administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation.

For details, follow links available at www.recreation.gov or www.nps.gov.



Park podcasts foster new connections to national treasures

by Jay Elhard
Park Ranger

I'm a big listener. There are days, I noticed recently, when I might allow a quarter of my waking life to be occupied by the offerings and impositions of little electronic boxes. Yet increasingly little of what reaches me anymore comes by way of conventional radio and television broadcasts. Here of late, I have become an avid and enthusiastic collector of free internet podcasts.

It may be the closest I may ever come to living anything like George Jetson. Each morning now, after I boot my dog outside to exercise and toss back a swig or two of hot coffee, I crack open the browser of a favored *pod catching* program and press one simple button. Within moments, while I'm otherwise engaged with email, weather and news summaries, this handy contraption finds, downloads and highlights the latest episodes of more than fifty free podcasts to which I routinely subscribe. After a few more clicks and snaps I'm on my way again with everything that I deem interesting fully loaded and organized inside an off-brand MP3 player I carry that's hardly larger than two or three granulated sugar cubes dangling from a white cord around my neck.

I'm a seasonal park ranger. Among the odd and unusual podcasts I've found of interest to me recently have been talks about snowshoeing, "Leave No Trace" outdoor skills, archeology, American Indian affairs and wilderness conservation. By chance I found a speech that a park biologist delivered in Montana last year about the tenth anniversary of wolf reintroduction to Yellowstone. Since language craft is important to my work, I also follow a couple of clever offerings about English grammar and usage and a popular literary almanac read aloud each day by Garrison Keillor.

But that's just me. The range of topics available by podcast is fast becoming as wide and boundless as the internet itself. You can learn Italian, or study to be a paramedic, or follow the Green Bay Packers by podcast, if that's your thing. While President Franklin D. Roosevelt held rapt the attention of a whole nation in a single series of Fireside Chats by radio more than sixty years ago, you can now subscribe to listen as you please to the contending platforms and campaign plans of virtually all of today's major political figures.

The National Park Service, I'm pleased to note, appears to be wading into the tide as well.

Something on the order of a hundred park-related podcasts are circulating on the web already, from audio clips about the explorations of Lewis and Clark to compressed videos of iconic park scenery and landmarks. My personal favorite among the entire fare is a

President Bush has embraced this technology as "hip amongst some of the younger citizens here in this country."



JRE

Fashionable artifact

A new T-shirt design will be sold in the visitor center bookstore this year. Eastern National, the park's nonprofit partner association, is producing the image based on a digital rendering of an artifact in the park museum. Watch for updates about availability at eParks.com.

seven-minute talk by a wildlife biologist at Glacier NP in Montana as he offers tips and tactics that visitors can use to hike and camp more safely in bear country. While I'm likely biased, I believe this classic form of interpretation – simple talks by experienced guides and rangers – is the most promising way that the park service can use podcasts to connect new and more diverse populations of visitors, in person or online, to more of America's great treasures.

At a public appearance at Shenandoah NP in February, President George W. Bush embraced the potential for this technology as "hip amongst some of the younger citizens here in this country."

As this newsletter rolls to press in early April, a preliminary proposal is circulating that would provide enough training and equipment so that all 390 national parks could begin producing and posting similar programs within the next three years. The working title that's being discussed presently is "Online Roving Ranger" videos. Ultimately and ideally, what it all means is that everyone who pleases will be able to download, carry and play hundreds, if not soon thousands, of free portable videos about their national parks anytime before, during and after their actual visits.

Hopewell Culture NHP, where I first started working as a park guide in 2005, very recently became a partner in a joint project promoting American Indian themed sites in southern Ohio. Plans call for the production by this summer of ten short tour segments about the different partner sites that will soon after be made widely available by CD, DVD, audio and video podcast.

For several years already it has been possible to tap into web cams perched throughout the national parks. Daylight and weather permitting, current images are available to you more or less anytime from Old Faithful at Yellowstone NP, Half Dome at Yosemite NP, and Mount McKinley at Denali NP&P in Alaska, for example.

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Trench explores techniques of ancient builders



Ranger Laura Murphy interprets a 2006 excavation for visitors at the Hopewell Mound Group.

The Midwest Archeological Center in June 2006 excavated a trench across the eastern embankment wall of the main enclosure at Hopewell Mound Group. The excavation intended to record the con-

struction methods of the wall. Previous geophysical data revealed that at least the base of the earthen wall was intact in this area. Decades of prior agricultural cultivation at the site have reduced most of the

embankment walls to the point where they are barely recognizable above the surface. Fortunately, the part of the wall that remained was enough to offer insight as to how this portion was built.

Hopewell earthen enclosures in southern Ohio exhibit many different shapes that vary in size and organization. Early scholars assumed that walls which were built in association with ditches were built from soil dug up from the ditch. This was likely the case at some sites, but not at the Hopewell Mound Group. While it is probable that ditch fill was used to construct parts of the wall, materials look as if they were carefully sorted and not mixed together.

The lack of any dateable features connected with wall construction makes it impossible to determine the absolute age of the embankment wall and ditch. But there is evidence that the embankment wall and ditch were built after mound building was established at Hopewell Mound Group.

For details, please visit the MWAC's online Hopewell Archeology Newsletter at www.cr.nps.gov/mwac/hopewell.

Podcasts can foster new connections to national treasures

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More recently, Valley Forge NP in Pennsylvania has been piloting a program that allows visitors to use cell phones to access audio recordings that accompany a series of wayside exhibits established throughout the park. You can listen along now too – dial (408) 794- 2820 and enter any number from two through eleven followed by the pound sign to hear a sampling.

Advancing technology is changing the experience of visiting even a vast wilderness park such as Denali, where cell phones are for now thankfully and exquisitely useless much beyond front- country concerns. Last summer the park concessionaire rolled out a new fleet of buses equipped with drop- down video screens above the passenger seats. During wildlife stops bus drivers now deploy a video camera to frame luminous, often artfully- composed images of creatures resting, running or rummaging off in the distance. This, by itself, is probably a good outcome. It gives many tired and highly- transient bus passengers their best and only close- up view of some of the animals that make the park famous. Eventually, though, many passengers seem to take the novelty for granted and stop looking out the bus much themselves. It becomes altogether commonplace to watch them snap pictures of the flat screen at the end of their noses rather than the life it depicts just outside. It's as if the prettier, packaged version somehow becomes more interesting and compelling to them than what they

actually came all this way to see with their own eyes. It's in these moments that I tend to prefer to ride in older buses without video screens, where it still seems more interesting and fun for passengers themselves to keep watch, point and share binoculars. One of the important early lessons I learned working as a ranger in Denali last

summer was that it's necessary sometimes to remind visitors of their own underlying motives for traveling to Alaska – *You probably didn't come here simply to see wild animals. You came to see a place where it's still possible to see wild animals.*

As much as I enjoy and thrive upon new ideas and innovation myself, I know that they can't ever trump direct personal experience. While podcasts, web cams, electronic books and portable movies are all astonishingly capable of delivering information and inspiration, they will always be hollow substitutes for real life. For more than ninety years working guides and interpreters have known that every flashy new gimmick and technique that comes along will be judged only by how well it helps people find and make new connections of their own.

"A nature guide is an artist. His work is to incite interest – an interest that will develop – that can never be satisfied," Enos Mills wrote in an essay that

first appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1916. A protégé of John Muir, Mills is talking about wilderness here, but the principle applies as easily to historical and cultural experience.

"An interest in nature, no matter how detached or how meager can be developed, expanded and directed so that it becomes a friend and companion for life."

"As much as I enjoy and thrive upon new ideas and innovation myself, I know that they can't ever trump direct personal experience."



Visitors invited to “Ask an Archeologist”

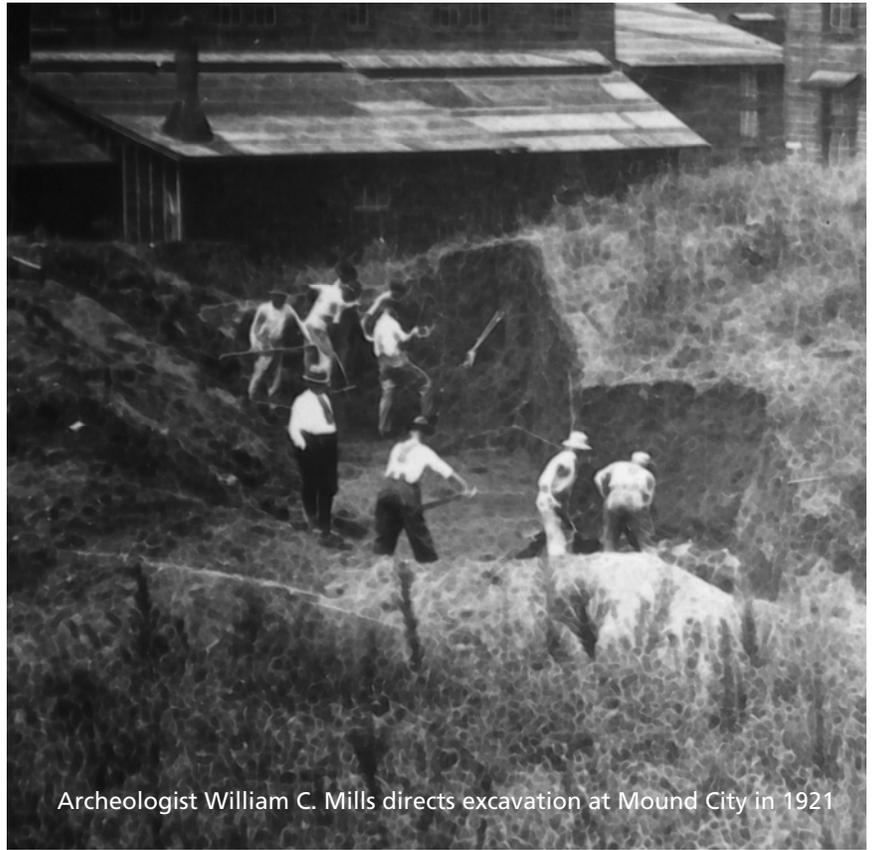
Thomas Jefferson had a few good questions about the ancient monuments here in Ohio more than 200 years ago. Why shouldn't you?

Hopewell Culture NHP is inviting the public to take part in a new bulletin board forum at the park visitor center entitled “Ask an Archeologist.”

The origins of the project stem from a practice by many park rangers across the country to carry a stack of blank postcards on their guided hikes and programs so they can research and respond to questions that they can't answer on the spot.

In this case, though, brief and accessible answers will be enlisted from accomplished archeologists and posted publicly in the visitor center with relevant pictures and illustrations so that everyone can enjoy and benefit from the exchange.

Blank questions forms are available at a display in the bookstore lobby and may be dropped off or returned by mail.



Archeologist William C. Mills directs excavation at Mound City in 1921

Computer quiz game offered as free web download

A brand new computer quiz game about Hopewell Culture NHP is now available as a free download from the park's website.

Hopewell Culture Trivia Bee is a collection of 50 multiple-choice questions about archeology, ecology, outdoor safety, and national parks. The game is presented in Microsoft PowerPoint, a widely-used and readily-available application. Most people won't need special equipment, software upgrades or instructions to get started.

While future versions may be written more specifically for school-age children, this first edition of the *Trivia Bee* is intended for a broad general audience. As an interpretive tool, it's not meant to be a formal educational product as much as another means to inspire lasting interest and curiosity about the park's resources.

All told, the game presents —

- 20 questions about archeology
- 12 questions about the Hopewell and their way of life
- ten questions about the park and its distinct history
- six questions about natural resources and outdoor safety
- and two questions about the larger National Park Service.

This very first version of the *Trivia Bee* is purposefully non-competitive. It doesn't keep score or track mistakes. But that doesn't preclude players from making up their own way of determining winners and losers. It can be played alone or as a group activity, especially if large-screen projection equipment is available.

A separate, printable tally sheet is provided so that players can keep track of questions that they have answered correctly.

To download the game, follow links and instructions on the park's website, www.nps.gov/hocu. The size of the PowerPoint file is 9.0 MB. The accompanying tally sheet is 97 KB.

Also available as a bonus is a separate PowerPoint slide show (8.8 MB) of 17 pictures of the Mound City Group by photographer Joe Murray. Murray's images have been offered for sale in the park bookstore as postcards, posters and magnets.

Sample Trivia Bee Questions:

(Find answers on Page 10)

1. What year did it become an official violation of park rules to walk on the earthworks at Mound City?
A: 1956 B: 1986 C: 2006
2. How much more energy, adjusted by weight, does it take a mammal to run the distance a bird can fly?
A: 3 times B: 5 times C: 10 times
3. Which group did Thomas Jefferson come to believe built the mounds?
A: American Indians
B: A race of master builders
C: The Lost Tribes of Israel
4. What specifically happens at a “killing ceremony?”
A: An animal is ritually sacrificed
B: Hunters dance to purify weapons, traps & tactics
C: Objects are broken & burned



Guidelines for your field trip

Mound City Group Visitor Center
(740) 774-1126

Planning Your Visit

Before bringing your class to the Mound City Group, we suggest that you visit the area personally to become acquainted with our resources and facilities. We will make every effort to have a park ranger meet with your group if arrangements are made prior to your visit. Plan to spend about two hours at Mound City. At least one hour for every 30- 40 students will be needed for a tour. Allow additional time for stops at the museum and bookstore.

Orientation Before Your Visit

Orient your class to the objectives of the trip, lunch arrangements and regulations. Involve the students in planning what to wear and bring. Please remind your students that this is a school day and they will be involved in a learning experience. Orientation kits, including our 17- minute video *Legacy of the Moundbuilders* and introductory activities, are available before your visit. More information is available upon request.

Supervision

Provide at least one adult for every ten students. This is necessary for the safety and supervision of the group. The adults should be physically able and willing to participate. Group leaders are expected to help with proper behavior. Rangers will talk with the group. However, it is the teacher's responsibility to maintain order and to plan and direct the majority of the class activities at Mound City. Rangers may terminate a program because of disruptive or unsafe behavior.

To protect park resources, please ensure that your students understand that no collecting of any natural or cultural objects is allowed. Walking on the mounds and the surrounding earth wall is not permitted.

At Mound City

Please arrive promptly for any scheduled programs. If your schedule changes please notify the park as soon as possible.

Wear clothing appropriate for outdoor activities.

The paved section of our parking lot is reserved for automobiles. Please pull your bus around the loop and park on the paving stones in the grass as indicated.

Restrooms and drinking water are available in the visitor center. Food and beverages are not sold in the park and are not allowed in the visitor center. A small picnic area (seating for 50 and no rain cover) is located behind the visitor center and is available on a first- come basis. Groups requiring larger facilities may wish to use Yoctangee Park in Chillicothe. Yoctangee has three covered picnic shelters which are available by reservation. Please contact the Chillicothe Recreation Department at (740) 772- 5626 to reserve the shelters. Camp Sherman Memorial Park is another covered picnic shelter located 1.5 miles south of Mound City on Highway 104. Playground equipment is located at both parks. A number of fast food restaurants are available in the area.



Ranger Daniel Elsbrock discusses park rules before leading a tour of Mound City.

“No collecting of any natural or cultural objects is allowed. Walking on the mounds and the surrounding earth wall is not permitted.”

Sample Trivia Bee Answers

(Find questions on Page 9)

- 1 = C: 1986. Superintendent Ken Apschnikat issued a first compendium of orders for the park in 1986. The mounds and earth walls were closed to foot traffic to prevent erosion. Recreational pursuits were restricted to reduce potential for accidents, to avoid disturbances and “to preserve the dignity of a prehistoric burial area.” Source: *Amidst Ancient Monuments: The Administrative History of Mound City Group National Monument/Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Ohio* by Ron Cockrell (National Park Service, 1999)
- 2 = C: 10 times. This might be one reason why mammals – with the notable exceptions of caribou, bats and gray whales – aren’t known to migrate as often or as far as other creatures. Source: *Life in the Cold: An Introduction to Winter Ecology* by Peter J. Marchand (University Press of New England, 1987)
- 3 = A: American Indians. Jefferson, who systematically excavated a mound in Virginia to learn about American Indian burial practices, is credited with the first scientific archeological excavation in the United States. Other leading thinkers of the day preferred to attribute the earthworks to lost races of Vikings, Greeks, Persians, Hindus, Phoenicians, emigrants from Atlantis or the Lost Tribes of Israel. Source: *Indian Mounds of the Middle Ohio Valley* by Susan L. Woodward and Jerry McDonald (McDonald & Woodward Publishing, 2001)
- 4 = C: Material objects are broken and burned. Aside from the possible practical purpose of discouraging prospective looters and grave robbers, the act of breaking and burning material items as part of a cremation ritual may have been viewed as means to release the power or spiritual essence of the objects. Source: *Exploration of the Mound City Group* by William C. Mills (Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society, 1922).



Other NPS sites in Ohio



CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK: The park encompasses 33,000 acres of the pastoral Cuyahoga River Valley between Akron and Cleveland, including forests, meadows, streams, lakes, waterfalls, rock outcroppings, farm fields, historic villages, and canal resources. Year-round activities include hiking, biking, skiing, nature study, golfing, train rides, concerts and plays, and more. The 20-mile-long Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is fully accessible for bicycles and wheelchairs. Hale Farm & Village is an outdoor museum of pioneer life operated by the Western Reserve Historical Society. Fees are charged for some activities. For more information write: Superintendent, 15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, Ohio 44141, (216) 524-1497, www.nps.gov/cuva.

DAYTON AVIATION HERITAGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK: The legacy of Paul Laurence Dunbar, Wilbur and Orville Wright and the early development of aviation in Dayton are preserved within the four units of the park. The Wright Cycle Company building is where the Wright brothers worked when they became interested in flight. Huffman Prairie Flying Field is where they learned to control their machine in the air. The Wright Flyer III, located in Carillon Historical Park, is the world's first practical airplane. The Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial is where the poet, author, and friend of the Wright brothers lived and worked prior to his death. Start your tour at The Wright Cycle Company building, 22 S. Williams Street, Dayton, Ohio 45407. For information contact: Superintendent, P.O. Box 9280 Wright Brothers Station, Dayton, Ohio 45409, (937) 225-7705, www.nps.gov/daav.

FIRST LADIES NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE: First Ladies National Historic Site preserves and interprets the roles of America's First Ladies, and the impacts they have had on our nation's social and political history. The site's operating partner, the

National First Ladies' Library (NFLL), manages a virtual library, as well as an on-site, seven-story Education and Research Center (ERC), to tell the stories of our First Ladies. Housed in the historic home of Ida Saxton McKinley in Canton, Ohio, the site offers tours of the home and ERC, educational and interpretive programs. Contact the NFLL at: (303) 452-0876, or on the web at: www.firstladies.org.

JAMES A. GARFIELD NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE: The James A. Garfield National Historic Site preserves and interprets the stories, and personal belongings, of the public and private life of the 20th President of the United States, James A. Garfield. Recently restored to its Victorian-era splendor, the site consists of eight-acres of the former farm, the president's house and memorial library, campaign office, and several outbuildings. The grounds are free, but a fee is charged for the visitor center and guided tours of the house. The site is operated jointly by the National Park Service and Western Reserve Historical Society. For more information contact: James A. Garfield NHS, 8095 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, Ohio 44060, (440) 255-8722, www.nps.gov/jaga, www.wrhs.org.

PERRY'S VICTORY AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE MEMORIAL: Constructed between 1912 and 1915, this massive memorial commemorates Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's decisive naval victory over a British fleet in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. This memorial also inculcates the hard-won lessons of international peace through disarmament, arbitration, and negotiation. Comprising 78 courses of pink granite, the 352-foot memorial is the largest Greek Doric column in the world. An observation deck 317 feet above Lake Erie is reached by elevator for a small fee. The Visitor Center is free and exhibits, a DVD presentation, and cooperating association sales area. For more information contact: Superintendent, Box 549, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456, (419) 285-2184, www.nps.gov/pevi.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE: The Site commemorates the only man to serve as President and Chief Justice of the United States. A visit to the site includes a tour of four period rooms that reflect family life during Taft's boyhood. The home also includes second floor exhibits highlighting Taft's life and career. The Taft Education Center, houses an orientation video, exhibits on later generations of the family, and classrooms for visiting schools. The restored home is at 2038 Auburn Avenue, 513-684-3262. www.nps.gov/wiho.

NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL: The 3,200-mile trail links outstanding scenic, recreational, and historic areas in seven northern states: North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. More than 1,800 miles of the trail are open to public use. Completed segments in Ohio and other states offer enjoyment to the casual walker and challenge the long-distance hiker. A few segments offer bicycling and horseback riding. Information is available from 700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100, Madison, WI 53711, (608) 441-5610.



One national park, five important archeological sites



Hopewell peoples lived from about 2,200 to 1,500 years ago. We have learned that they conducted elaborate rituals, performed unique burials, crafted distinctive ceremonial items, and maintained an extensive exchange system that covered most of eastern North America. While they lived in scattered and independent hamlets, their social structure was highly organized. Work was shared and possibly specialized.

Mound City Group

Unit Acreage: 120

Location: State Route 104, three miles north of Chillicothe.

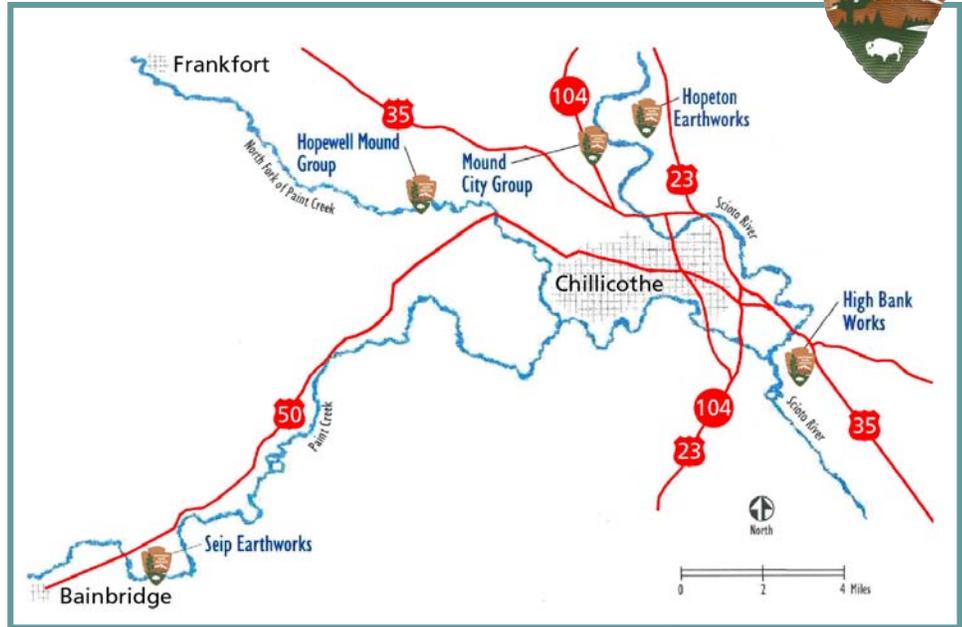
Cultural Features: This early Hopewell ceremonial center consists of 23 mounds that cover the remains of ceremonial buildings. Eight borrow pits ring the embankment. A museum in the visitor center contains artifacts from archeological work at the site, including objects made of copper, flint, mica, and pipestone. An interactive, computer kiosk provides virtual tours of a wide range of Hopewell sites and topics.

Hopewell Mound Group

Unit Acreage: 316

Location: A few miles west of Chillicothe on Sulphur Lick Road, near Maple Grove Road.

Cultural Features: One of the largest and most complex Hopewell earthwork centers, this site includes: about three miles of earthen embankments (four to six feet high in the 1840s); at least 40 mounds including the largest known Hopewell mound; and three smaller interior earthworks. The site is named for a family which



owned the site in the 1890's when Warren K. Moorehead conducted excavations.

Seip Earthworks

Unit Acreage: 168

Location: On U.S. Route 50 between Bourneville and Bainbridge.

Cultural Features: Owned in partnership with the Ohio Historical Society, Seip Earthworks is one of five distinctive Hopewell earthwork complexes in the area made up of a circular embankment connected to a smaller circle and square embankment. At least 18 mounds are found within and around the earthworks with as many as 19 interspersed borrow pits. The conjoined mound and the large mound near the center of the earthwork cover the remains of large ceremonial buildings.

Hopeton Earthworks

Unit Acreage: 292

Location: One mile north of Chillicothe at Hopetown Road. (No public access.)

Cultural Features: Low parallel embankments of earth nearly 2,500 feet in length lead up to a set of conjoined embankments in the shape of a large circle and square. The walls of the square-like enclosure were 12 feet tall in the 1840s. Four mounds and numerous borrow pits are found along the southern and eastern edges of the earthwork complex. Two small circular embankments open onto the area enclosed by the square.

Hopewell groups built this earthwork complex at a time when the use of the Mound City Group was declining.

High Bank Earthworks

Unit Acreage: 190

Location: South of Chillicothe near the split of U.S. Route 35/U.S. Route 50. (No public access.)

Cultural Features: This is one of only two Hopewell earthwork complexes known to have an octagonal enclosure. Eight mounds are found inside the octagon. The earthen walls were 12 feet tall in the 1840s. A 20-acre circular enclosure is attached to the northern edge of the octagon by a narrow opening. Large borrow pits line the edges and low, elaborate embankments extend off to the south. This important site is one of the least understood in Ross County.



Hopewell Happenings is an official newsletter of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, a unit of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, published with bookstore proceeds earned by its nonprofit partner association, Eastern National Superintendent Dean Alexander, Chief Ranger Rick Perkins

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