

Preserving Our Past for the Future

The Museum, Archives and Research Services (MARS) program balances the permanent preservation of the Seashore's museum and archival collections with providing access to the resources for researchers and the public. This year the MARS program continued its emphasis on providing excellent service to researchers by facilitating 121 formal research requests, 63 from within the park, 58 from outside researchers. Program staff cataloged 128,016 items, and accessioned 6,432, exceeding program goals significantly. Museum preservation standards are measured as a percentage of standards met. The Seashore met 175 of 203 applicable standards (86.2%), exceeding program and national goals significantly. The program continues to be significantly involved in assisting with collections management throughout the region, especially East Bay/San Francisco Bay Network parks. Program staff completed eight projects at six other national parks, including John Day Fossil Beds NM, Kaluapapa NHP, the Honolulu regional office, Pinnacles NM and Redwood NP.

This year the Seashore Historic Preservation Crew completed 13 projects in the park and one in Mojave National Park. Among their projects, the crew began work on a major rehabilitation of several structures at the historic Home (Murphy) Ranch on Drakes Estero. In addition, the program completed 11 painting and roofing projects throughout the park, utilizing contractors. The crew completed a major wood window repair project on the Boathouse at the Lifesaving Station National Historic Landmark, making use of a new steam-based paint-removing machine for windows and doors located in the historic preservation shop. Wood window repair is meticulous and labor-intensive. It requires a high level of skill and specialized equipment which the Seashore crew possesses.

Work continued this year on the nomination of a prehistoric archaeology district to the National Register of Historic Places. Archaeologists at Sonoma State University are preparing the district nomination cooperatively with the park and it should be completed in 2008. Volunteers in the Archaeology Site Steward program provided critical assistance to the Seashore by monitoring several endangered sites throughout the park. Seashore staff met regularly with representatives of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria on a variety of issues related to sacred sites, including NAGPRA repatriations, the review of park projects, and a new cooperative agreement.



Museum Curator Kirsten Kvam preparing replica model of the *Golden Hind* for display



Preservation crew working on historic window repair at the Lifeboat Station