CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER

October 2016

The National Historic Preservation Act Turns 50!

Preserving America's Historic Places

October 15, 2016, will mark the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. This landmark legislation is arguably the most powerful historic preservation law in the United States, creating our national preservation framework, a partnership that remains as relevant and integral today as when it was envisioned five decades ago.

President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the National Historic Preservation Act with First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson and Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall.

When NHPA was conceived, our nation was experiencing unprecedented development pressure in housing and transportation; we were wholesale losing the irreplaceable historic sites and landscapes of our country. As a response, Congress established national goals for historic preservation, ones that could only be achieved through the creation of a network of state, tribal, and local governments, each working with the private sector, dedicated individuals, and institutions.

Every agency of the federal government is mandated under the NHPA to address historic resources through their policies and practices and to embrace the language of the act's preamble: "the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people . . . the preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations." Without the NHPA, and its improvement through time, Congress recognized that the historic landscape of our country would have continued to suffer unfettered losses.

Historic Preservation *continued on Page 4*

Calendar of Events

October 2016

This October we invite you to explore historic preservation and palentology. Check your local park for events or visit www.FindYourPark.com or www.EncuentraTuParque.com and search through the nationwide schedule. The Find Your Park calendar is continually being updated so check back as new events are added every week.

October 14-16
Big Thicket Mini-BioBlitz
Big Thicket National Preserve
Texas
A BioBlitz is an effort to document as many living organisms as possible within a set time frame in a given area. While biologists and researchers often participate, these events are opportunities for the public - aka "citizen scientists" - to get involved in documenting species.
www.nps.gov/bith

October 15
50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act
Nationwide
www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation

October 15
Get Outdoors Day Nevada
Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Nevada
Find your park in the heart of Las Vegas. A variety of vendors and federal, state and local partners, will highlight recreational opportunities in the Las Vegas Valley. EKIP events as well.
www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/day

October 15
International Archaeology Day
Nationwide
Celebrate archaeology and the thrill of discovery.
www.archaeological.org/archaeologyday

October 16
Oregon Trail Trek
Oregon and California National Historic Trails
Kansas
All ages are invited to a run/walk retracement of the Oregon and California National Historic Trails.
www.nps.gov/oreg

October 16
Pumpkin Sunday
Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site
Montana
Come out for a fun, family friendly afternoon filled with great activities for children and adults.
www.nps.gov/grko

October 22
Centennial Day of Service
Pinnacles National Park
California
Come out, volunteer and celebrate *Make a Difference Day* by assisting with a variety of service projects.
www.nps.gov/pinn

October 22
Black Hills Symphony Performance
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
South Dakota
Join the Black Hills Symphony, Dakota Choral Union, and the Black Hills State University Chorus in a performance of Michael Daugherty's spectacular "Mount Rushmore" for Orchestra and Chorus.
www.nps.gov/moru

FIND YOUR PARK

FINDYOURPARK.COM

Centennial Event of the Month

Each month this section highlights a park or program Centennial event. Centennial events can be small and intimate, such as a kids program in the local community, or grand, such as a concert or a naturalization ceremony. Either way, the options are endless with more events being added to the calendar every day. Check the Find Your Park website calendar or your local park calendar for events near you.

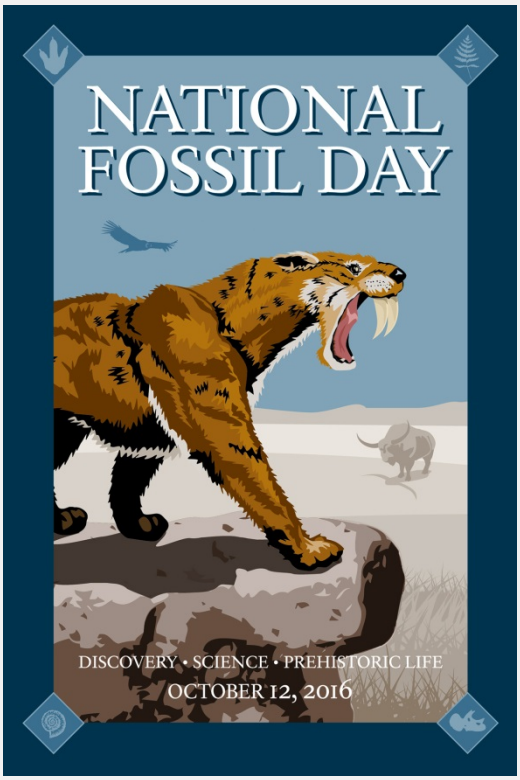
National Fossil Day

October 12, 2016

National parks are home to some pretty intimidating species. There's the saber-tooth cat, the flesh-eating Allosaurus with 5½-inch claws, or the hulking entelo-dont, a seven-foot-tall, boar-like scavenger and predator with a nasty nature and powerful jaws.

If it sounds like bears (which, yes, can also be found in national parks) will be the least of a visitor's worries, let it be known that the creatures named above exist only within the national parks' wealth of fossils. At least 230 parks preserve fossils from throughout geologic time; billion-year-old stromatolites, 200 million-year-old dinosaurs, and ice age mammals from thousands of years ago all appear in national park fossils. To promote awareness and stewardship of fossils—the record of evolving life on a dynamic planet—and foster greater appreciation of their value to scientists and educators, the National Park Service and the American Geoscience Institute will host National Fossil Day on October 12, 2016, during Earth Science Week.

To plan for October 12, please visit the National Fossil Day website at http://www.nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday. The site lists National Fossil Day events by state and serves as a one-stop shop for teachers, students, and paleontology-lovers seeking activities and resources to help them pursue their interest further.



The 2016 National Fossil Day artwork features three iconic Pleistocene ("ice age") animals from the United States: a saber-toothed cat, a long-horned bison, and a condor flying above.

Throughout the country, children and adults can participate in National Fossil Day events, which may extend throughout Earth Science Week. These include the National Fossil Day Celebration on the National Mall in Washington, DC, on October 15 at which participants can excavate fossils from chunks of sediment at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, watch lab workers clean fossils, and identify fossils with the help of paleontologists.

The website also lists the many partners helping the National Park Service to organize National Fossil Day. These federal and state agencies, avocational groups, professional organizations, fossil sites, universities and museums include the National Science Foundation, the American Geoscience Institute, the Association for Women Geoscientists, and the Harvard Museum of Natural History.

The NHPA expanded the traditional role of the National Park Service, giving it new responsibilities for the identification, evaluation, recognition, stewardship, and interpretation of historic places across the country. NPS manages the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of important sites now numbering 1.5 million historic properties; the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program, which last year created over 85,000 construction jobs and $6.6 billion in private sector investment; and oversees the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation that provide the best practices for the stewardship of our physical heritage.

Through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the NPS created a network that embraced all levels of government in the work of ensuring that historic places valued by our communities are considered as part of federally supported development activities. The responsible preservation of American heritage requires an ongoing investment that fuels the integrated partnership among the various levels of government and the private sector. One constant has been that the need has always been greater than the available funding. As Representative Frances Bolton remarked at a 1965 White House Conference, there would "never be enough money in the public treasury to do all that is necessary for preservation and conservation." However, our nation has still been well-served by the NHPA. Whole neighborhoods are sustained and thrive as old buildings are adapted to new uses, the authentic fabric of our cultural traditions is maintained at places important to a community, and our people have an enhanced appreciation for the diversity of the American experience.

Interior concourse of New York's Pennsylvania Station in 1962. The Beaux-Arts style station (designed by McKim, Mead, and White) was completed in 1910. Despite a fight to save the building that began in 1961, the station was demolished from 1963 to 1966. Penn Station's destruction provided an important catalyst for the passage of New York City's Landmarks Law in 1965.

Historic American Buildings Survey/Cervin Robinson

So during the centennial year of the National Park Service, we recognize this important 50th Anniversary milestone of the NHPA; reflecting on our rich history of stewardship that has preserved the historic places and traditions of our nation.

The National Historic Preservation Act
What is it?

What makes the National Parks "America's Best Idea" is not only the setting aside of the land, but the preservation of the cultural and natural resources within the parks. Because of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), tens of thousands of historic structures have been preserved and archeological sites identified. Millions of jobs have been created, and billions of dollars have been added to the economy. Over 80,000 sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, representing sites in nearly every county in the nation. Without the NHPA, the landscape of our country would be unrecognizable.

The NHPA has four major components:

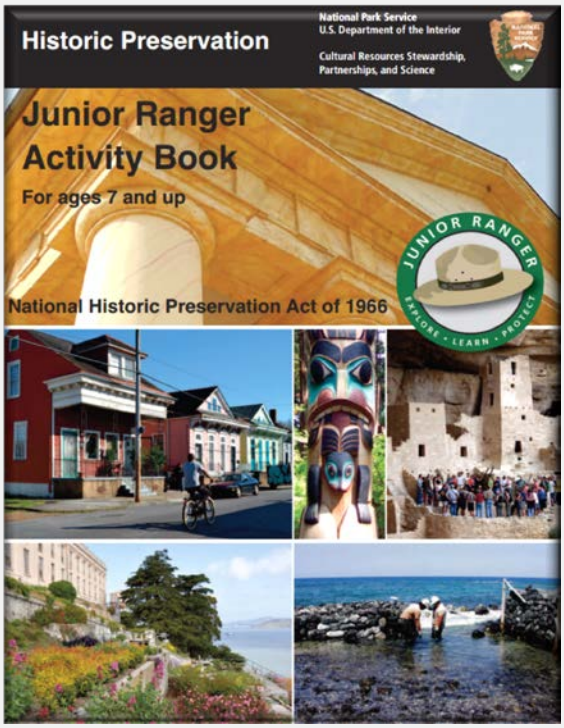
- **The National Register of Historic Places (National Register)** - The National Register documents significant historic and archeological resources that are worth preserving.

- **Section 106 Review** - Requires review of projects on federal land or those receiving federal funds to evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources.

- **State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO)** - Established SHPOs and THPOs to guide preservation for individual states and tribal lands.

- **Section 110** - added in 1990, Section 110 calls on federal agencies to establish Historic Preservation programs to identify, evaluate, and protect historic properties.

For more information visit: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/index.htm



Want to Test Your Knowledge of the National Historic Preservation Act?

Try out the
National Historic Preservation Act Jr. Ranger Booklet.

There is a kid in all of us so challenge yourself or share with your constituents and learn about our country's history of preservation and how we can protect the nation's heritage.

https://www.nps.gov/articles/upload/NHPAJrRangerBook.pdf

The National Historic Preservation Act
Share the Anniversary with Social Media

October 15, 2016, is the official 50th anniversary of President Johnson signing the National Historic Preservation Act. This offers a great one day opportunity to have a nationwide social media impact.

Hashtag: #NPHA50

Here are some examples of Facebook posts that you could use for inspiration for promoting the 50th anniversary of NHPA. Posts could feature a national level site or location, or could be tailored for a local audience. You can also check out the NPS Heritage & Historic Preservation Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/HHPreservItNPS/?fref=ts

The National Register of Historic Places protects the United States' most important historic sites including the White House, Golden Gate Bridge, Independence Hall, and the Bemidgi, Minnesota Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox statues. Built in 1937, the statues were added to the National Register in 1988 and are considered the second most photographed statues in the country behind Mount Rushmore. #NHPA50

Cedar Hill, the final home of Frederick Douglass, is located in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, D.C. The house has a commanding view of the city, and overlooks the Capitol. Douglass used to joke that the location allowed him to keep an eye on the politicians. Due to its association with Douglass, the home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. #NHPA50 #FindYourPark

The National Park Service includes the Submerged Resource Center, home to a crew of cultural resource specialists trained to preserve incredible underwater sites such as the *USS Arizona* pictured here. It is comforting to know that the preservation of America's cultural treasures does not stop at the water's edge. #NHPA50 #FindYourPark

Discovering Cultural Landscape Preservation

A Student's Journey through the Past

By Kristi Lin, Landscape Architecture student at the University of California, Davis and 2015 NPS Cultural Resources Diversity Intern

Politicians, activists, and historians often reference George Santayana's words, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." As the granddaughter of Japanese American citizens wrongfully incarcerated during WWII, I carry a sense of duty to ensure that this episode in American history is never forgotten, let alone repeated. One might imagine that this sense of duty originated from my upbringing in a Japanese American community or from being brought to every museum, film, and lecture about the unjustness of the incarceration. All of those experiences contributed; however, what impacted me most was feeling the sting of wind blasting sand into my face at Manzanar National Historic Site, a camp in California where 10,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated during WWII.

Sunset at the front entrance road with Guard Tower No. 8 in silhouette.

During this trip to Manzanar, I was in the middle of my third year at the University of California, Davis studying landscape architecture and participating in my first Manzanar Pilgrimage. For the last eleven years, the Florin chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and the Sacramento Valley chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations have jointly organized a 3-day pilgrimage to Manzanar attended by former incarcerees, teachers, lawyers, activists, Muslim and Arab Americans, faith leaders, and students. At Manzanar, we would join hundreds of others from all over the country at a remembrance program sponsored by the Los Angeles-based Manzanar Committee. I expected the pilgrimage to be about meeting people and sharing stories; little did I know it would have so much to do with landscape architecture as well.

It was at Manzanar that I realized the power of cultural landscape preservation. Through walking the worn path from the barracks to the mess hall and seeing the barbed wire fence wrap around the 1-mile by 1-mile camp, I shared an experience with those who had lived there over 70 years ago. The pilgrimage haunted me and spurred me to educate others about this injustice. The pilgrimage also inspired me to look for internships with the National Park Service.

That summer, I had the opportunity to serve as a Cultural Resources Diversity Intern at the NPS Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation through their Designing the Parks program. During my internship, I worked with historical landscape architects who had helped to restore Manzanar as I assisted with cultural landscape inventories and reports for Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and Martin van Burren National Historic Site. I loved thinking about visitors connecting with different cultures through our restored landscapes.

***Landscape Design** continued on Page 8*

Landscape Design *continued from Page 7*

In my future career, I hope to continue finding ways to use cultural landscape preservation to promote social justice. Recently, I received a NPS student scholarship to attend the National Forum for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation. At the forum, I met professionals who share my vision that historic preservation can bring diverse people together, help us learn from mistakes of the past, and inspire community-driven site programs. Through the forum, I also got a summer internship helping the Delta Protection Commission preserve cultural resources in the Sacramento River Delta, including Locke, which is the last remaining rural Chinatown in the United States. As I enter my final year at UC Davis, I'm excited for the opportunities ahead and grateful for the National Park Service's dedication to preserving places where everyone can learn from the past and be inspired to create a better tomorrow.

The author remembering the legacy at the Manzanar cemetery during the 2016 Manzanar Pilgrimage.

Designing the Parks interns photo-documenting cultural landscape features at the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.

The **National Park Service Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation** provides research, planning, stewardship, and education services that strengthen the capacity of parks to manage cultural landscapes. Hosted by the Olmsted Center, the **Designing the Parks Internship Program** offers students and recent graduates opportunities to participate in cultural landscape documentation and design process. The program aims to reinvigorate the design of national parks and bolster the National Park Service's role as a leader in public park design by engaging five principles: respect place, engage all, model sustainability, design beyond boundaries, and communicate clearly. For more participant reflections, please visit designingtheparksoclp.wordpress.com

For More Information…

Who else is a Congressional Friend of the National Park Service Centennial? You can find a full list on the NPS Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs and the NPS Centennial websites. Know a colleague who may be interested? See our contact below:

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