



## Historical Happenings

Notes on Cultural Resource Management in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### FWS Regional News:

**Headquarters**—The 'new' USFWS Cultural Resources Program Web site is on-line! The site offers information on the many facets of the program at USFWS as well as past issues of the ever popular Historical Happenings. Visit the site at <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov> and contact Eugene Marino with comments.

**Headquarters**—The USFWS Museum Property Working Group will have its debut meeting early this Spring. The working group will bring together USFWS Museum Property expertise into a National working group whose goal is to enhance USFWS management of museum property. Contact Eugene Marino for more information.

**Region 1**—The Cathlapotle plankhouse is complete and open for visitors. The structure, located on Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, opened to the public on March 29, 2005. The project involved many volunteers over the course of several years. The structure will serve as the focal point of the Refuge's educational program. Contact Virginia Parks for more information.

**Region 4**—Archaeologists working at Yauhannah Bluff have found Native American as well as Colonial artifacts at a site that will eventually become the Headquarters of the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge. For more information contact Rick Kanaski.

**Region 4**—Fish Hatchery 2 site, located within the boundaries of the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The site contains abundant information relevant to addressing important research questions regarding regional cultural community and prehistoric social organization and subsistence patterns. For more information contact Rick Kanaski.

### **Region 5**—Rare Elk Skull and Antlers Unearthed at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

A rare eastern elk skull and antlers were recently excavated from a wetland impoundment on Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Basom, New York near Buffalo. During a dike construction project the elk parts were found nearly six feet down in the muck soil layer. When it died, the elk was a mature 6 x 6 (12 point), five year old bull. The find included the antlers, the top of the skull, and both lower jaw bones. The muck did an excellent job of preserving the specimen and only one antler point was damaged during the excavation.

Depending on its age, the antlers may be able to tell us about a now-extinct variety of North American elk. The eastern elk is an extinct subspecies of elk that at one time inhabited most of the eastern United States. The elk was extirpated from western New York State around 1820 and by the late nineteenth century the subspecies was completely extinct.

Loss of habitat and overhunting were the main causes of its decline. A piece of the elk bone has been sent to a laboratory for dating.

The refuge plans to have the specimen preserved and displayed in the visitor center. Most people are unaware that these animals once roamed New York. This find offers a unique opportunity for the refuge to give visitors a look back in time at the wildlife history of the western New York area.

Region 6—A new Regional Historic Preservation Officer has been selected for the Region. Meg Van Ness will begin her duties on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Other Agency News

### National NGAPRA—Native American Omnibus Act of 2005 - S.536

#### SEC. 108. DEFINITION OF NATIVE AMERICAN.

Section 2(9) of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001(9)) is amended—

(1) by inserting 'or was' after 'is'; and

(2) by inserting after 'indigenous to' the following: 'any geographic area that is now located within the boundaries of.'

**Bill Status:** <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00536:>

The Culturally Unidentifiable Native American Inventories Pilot (CUI) Database is now available online at [http://64.241.25.6/CUI\\_pilot/index.cfm](http://64.241.25.6/CUI_pilot/index.cfm). The CUI Database is a compilation of data from museums and Federal agencies from various geographic areas of the United States. The online version of the database is 38% complete as of January 28, 2005.

**DOI—** Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton announced the designation of 24 new National Historic Landmarks (NHL). The designated sites were recommended to the Secretary by the National Park System Advisory Board for their national significance in American history and culture. The newly designated landmarks range from Meadowcroft Rockshelter, a Paleo-Indian rockshelter used by Native American peoples as early as 18,000 years ago, to Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Facility, an example of an independent specialty automobile company that made hand-assembled rather than mass-produced automobiles. Four sites connected with African American history include Bethel Baptist Church, associated with one of the first organized groups of the modern civil rights movement, Howard High School, linked with the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, Foster Auditorium, significant for its association with desegregation of public higher education, and Mount Pleasant Historic District, important for the role it played in the antislavery movement and the Underground Railroad. (See more <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/release/Detail.cfm?ID=581>)

**ACHP--**The Bush Administration's fiscal year 2006 budget includes a request for \$12.5 million in grants for which *Preserve America* Communities, Certified Local Governments, and others will be eligible to apply. These matching grants of \$10,000 to \$100,000 would be distributed on a competitive basis to projects that preserve and use important historic resources for promotion of heritage tourism and other economic revitalization projects. The proposed *Preserve America* grants would provide upfront planning and assistance to

communities looking for ways to preserve their local heritage in self-sustaining ways. If Congress enacts the President's grant request, the *Preserve America* grant program will begin this fall.

**ACHP--April 4, 2005, Washington, DC—**President George W. Bush has announced his intention to appoint three new members of the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The new members are:

- Gerald Peter Jemison, as the Indian Tribe/Native Hawaiian Representative Member, Victor, New York
- Mark A. Sadd, General Public Member, Charleston, West Virginia
- John G. Williams, III, AIA, Expert Member, Seattle, Washington

All three new members have terms that will expire June 10, 2008.

**ACHP-- Approves Exemptions for the Interstate Highway System (Read more [http://www.achp.gov/final\\_interstate\\_exemption\\_notice.pdf](http://www.achp.gov/final_interstate_exemption_notice.pdf))**

### **Legislative News**

Hearings to proposed amendments to NHPA. See <http://www.acra-crm.org/nunesamendmentdraft.pdf> for more information. Hearings begin April 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has prepared testimony for an April 21 oversight hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on National Parks on the National Historic Preservation Act. It comments on a discussion draft bill that would, among other things, reauthorize the ACHP and the Historic Preservation Fund. Full text of the prepared testimony and its attachment can be found at <http://www.achp.gov/nhpa-testimony.pdf>.

Two Bills affecting claims under NAGPRA:

S.536: Technical Corrections Act  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00536:>

S.147: Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00147:>

### **Training News**

**The National Preservation Institute's Training Calendar has been updated and is available at [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).**

NCPTT Announces its next Cemetery Monument Conservation workshop is to be held in Omaha Nebraska May 24-26, 2005 For more information see [www.ncptt.nps.gov/cemetery](http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/cemetery)

**Curating Natural History Collections sponsored by the Interior Museum Program Museum Management Program, National Park Service Denver Museum of Nature and Science conducted at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science 2001 Colorado Avenue Denver, Colorado 80205 and Denver Botanic Gardens 1005 York Street Denver, Colorado 80206 May 9-13**

**MANAGING MUSEUM PROPERTY**sponsored by the Interior Museum Program conducted at the San Diego Museum of Man 1350 El Prado, Balboa Park San Diego, California 92101 August 15-19, 2005.

Additional information and an application can be found at the Interior Museum Program website address: <http://museums.doi.gov/training/managing.html> or contact Donald Cumberland at 202-208-4698

## **Federal Register News**

For April

## **Native American Liaison News**

## **Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News**

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge will be hosting a Migratory Bird Day and Pre-History Week beginning May 14<sup>th</sup> (9-5). Birding events as well as history lectures/activities are planned. For more information call (435) 831-5353 or see <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov/imbdo5flyer.pdf>

## **Requests for Information**

The Service is increasing its participation in the National Trails System, the Trails for All Americans program, and promoting our part in the CDC initiative, Trails for Health. As part of that effort we are trying to increase the visibility of the Service in the National Trails System. The National Trails System has three components: National Scenic Trails, such as the Appalachian Trail; National Historic Trails, such as the Trail of Tears; and National Recreation Trails, unique local or regional trails. National Scenic and Historic Trails are congressionally designated, National Recreation Trails are designated by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior.

There are 15 National Historic Trails in the NTS. Seven of them have NWRs or NFHs along them or near them. The Service is interested in certifying refuges and hatcheries along NHTs. Certification is a partnership that helps landowners protect and preserve their historic trail properties, and share them with others. Nathan Caldwell, the newest addition to the WO transportation staff, will be working with interested regions and field stations on the certification process. For more information and a list of the NHTs and NWRs or NFHs associated with them, contact Nathan by email or at phone (703) 358-2205.