



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

December 2009

Historical Happenings

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



Historical Happenings provides information on the USFWS Cultural Resources Management program. Information comes from sources such as the Regional Historic Preservation Officers, websites, new sources, as well as other cultural resource management professionals.

Issues are also available on the USFWS Cultural Resources website <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov>. Submissions are encouraged and can be made via email. Please contact Eugene Marino at Eugene_Marino@fws.gov for submission guidelines.

Wonderful Things

A look at FWS Museum Property

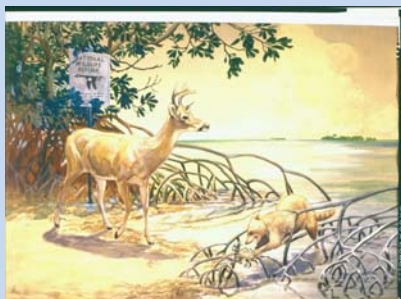
Robert Hines and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Robert Hines (1912-1994) was the only USFWS permanent employee hired as such to be a full-time artist. His official title was National Wildlife Artist. He worked from the Washington, D.C. office, and throughout his career, illustrated 2 wildlife art series (one on birds, and one on the wildlife of Alaska). He made educational posters, and large scale oil paintings to hang in refuge and regional offices. He was the artist on two duck stamps, and 4 wildlife conservation postage stamps, and was responsible for judging and setting standards for all of the duck stamps during his tenure with the FWS. He had many friends throughout the DOI, who often visited him in his studio in the Main Interior Building penthouse!

The museum at the National Conservation Center in Shepherdstown, WV, owns over 300 examples of Bob's works. From the 20 foot by 20 foot oil painting of Chesser Island at Okefenokee NWR, to 8" by 10" pencil sketches, his works are meticulous and detail oriented, as are indicative of a great wildlife artist. He even made Christmas cards that the FWS sent out several years. He worked for the FWS for 32 years, until his retirement in 1983.

Early in his FWS career, Bob made cartoon pieces for people about to retire. After getting bogged down with requests (he purportedly made at least 50-60 of these), his supervisor Rachel Carson banned him from making any more. The NCTC archive has one example – the cartoon made for Director Al Day's retirement. These works were highly imaginative, and we hear that recipients were thrilled to receive one as a retirement gift!

NCTC plans on making a CD of Hines' works available to those interested. We are also attempting to inventory all of Hine's works. If you have one, please let us know, and even send a photo to Jeanne_Harold@fws.gov.



FWS Regional News:

Washington Office

FWS archaeologists from Region 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 met at NCTC on November 18 and 19 to review FWS Cultural Resource training opportunities. The meeting resulted in updated goals and objectives for our current classroom and new on-line opportunities.

Region 4

Kenneth E. Sassaman and graduate students from the University of Florida excavating a test unit at the Little Bradford Island Site on Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge in late May 2009. The work is part of a larger initiative and partnership between the FWS and the University to conduct archaeological investigations along the Florida Gulf Coast on and near Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuges. The UF initiative focuses on large scale archaeological reconnaissance of the Refuges' shorelines and hammocks, research, and rescue or salvage of threatened sites, such as the Little Bradford Island Site. One of the initiative's major objectives is to examine how cultures adapt to climate change, specifically during periods of sea level fluctuations and the accompanying environmental changes. Testing of the Little Bradford Island Site, as well as systematic shovel testing of Richards

Island, will be conducted in late November. Richards Island, located on Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, is a large parabolic island that appears to be a Pleistocene relict dune. The island, which Sassaman described as a “fixture on the landscape with high relief and proximity to tidal water throughout much of its history,” is likely to yield evidence of human occupation, as well as insight into changes to coastal ecology, over several millennia at a fixed location. The collection of this information is a critical first step in comparing other locales in the study area and to identify patterned variations in site type, function, and location across time.



Figure 1 Excavations on the Little Bradford Island site

A University of South Florida archaeological field school was conducted on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge in May – June 2009 under the supervision of Dr. Nancy White. St. Vincent is a large barrier island located near the mouth of the Apalachicola River. A number of large pre-columbian oyster shell middens are located on the island’s northern shore. Over time, tidal fluctuations and storm events generated energy that severely eroded these sites. Dr. Donoghue, a geomorphologist from Florida State University (FSU), examined the soil profiles at several sites for evidence of sea level fluctuations, the island’s formational processes, and to collect soil samples for optically stimulated luminescence dating. Dr. Marrinan, an archaeologist from FSU, and several of her students participated in the fieldschool and will be analyzing the faunal assemblages.

White included a “public archaeology” component, which consisted of a public archaeology day at the Refuge, participation of volunteers in the archaeological field and lab work, and the establishment of a site-monitoring program. The site-monitoring program will be implemented in early 2010 by the Supporters of St. Vincent but overseen by Dr. White, Rick Kanaski [Region 4’s RHPO], and Shelley Stiaes [Refuge Manager].



Figure 2 Field school students excavate at St. Vincent NWR

Rick Kanaski, R4’s RHPO/RA, and Terri Jenkins, Fire Management Officer for Fire District 2, will present “Burn Baby Burn!!! Cultural Resources and Fire” at the upcoming 4th International Fire Congress in Savannah, Georgia, November 30 – December 4, 2009.

Abstract

Fire, whether wild or anthropogenic, plays a major role in shaping the natural and cultural landscapes of the Southeastern United States. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the nation’s predominant conservation agency, utilizes fire as a part of their habitat management toolkit. Although the Service largely focuses on natural resource and conservation issues, it is also responsible for the care of cultural resources located on its lands. For the past several decades, our understanding of fire impacts on a range of historic properties has been driven by assessments associated with the large wildfires occurring throughout the western United States. This presentation, which draws partially upon the western experience, provides a framework to identify potential fire impacts and steps that can be taken to protect archaeological sites, historic structures, traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, and cultural landscapes scattered across a distinctly diverse and different habitats of the Southeast.

Region 7— Kiska Battlefield Survey

By Debbie Corbett

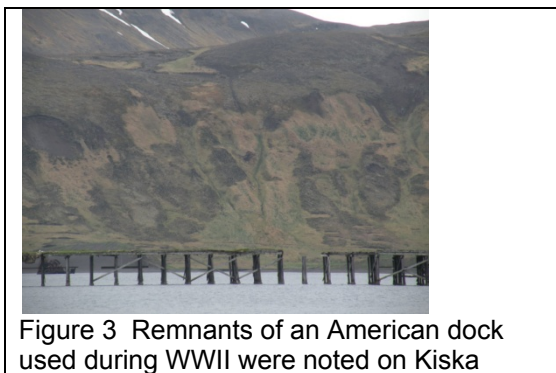
In 2007 the Alaska region of the National Park Service applied for and received an American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) grant to document the WWII remains on Kiska Island. Goals were to obtain a first approximation of the nature, extent and condition of the remains, and to document the American and Canadian remains for inclusion in the National Historic Landmark.

Fieldwork took place in June 2009 when the refuge research vessel M/V Tiglax dropped the crew off in Kiska Harbor for a week. The crew of 6 included two people from the National Park Service; Janis Kozlowski, manager of the World War II affiliated area, and Janet Clemens, the National Historic Landmarks coordinator. Fish and Wildlife sent regional

archaeologist Debra Corbett, and student interns Kimberly Fleming and Richard Galloway. The team also included Dr. Dirk Spennemann, an expert on the remains of World War II in the Pacific. Dr. Spennemann had previously surveyed the Japanese artillery in Kiska in 2007.

The team camped in Kiska Harbor and spent the week conducting a reconnaissance survey of Japanese, American and Canadian military facilities. The island was divided into 300 meter grid sections with aerial photographs and as-built drawings for each quadrant. Teams of two visited each quad, verifying the features visible in the photographs and identifying others. A representative sample of features within each grid was measured and photographed. Japanese facilities investigated included the Japanese Naval Base in Kiska Harbor and on North Head, the Army Base in Gertrude Cove, and the mini-sub base in southern Kiska Harbor. American camps were surveyed in Kiska Harbor and around Trout Lagoon, and the Canadian Base was well inland of Kiska Harbor overlooking the west coast allied invasion beaches. Among the highlights were the discovery of two unrecorded 25 mm mountain artillery guns, a previously unknown Japanese fighter plane, and fragments of a second mini-sub.

In late July and August, Dr. Ian Jones from Memorial University in Canada conducted a broad area reconnaissance around Gertrude Cove, South Head and Mutt and Jeff Coves. A number of gun positions, aircraft wrecks, defensive features, docks and scatters of vehicles, munitions, and domestic debris were identified and described.



Lost Villages

By Debbie Corbett

In the summer of 1942, four Unangan Aleut villages disappeared. Following the Japanese attack on Dutch Harbor, and the invasion of Attu and Kiska, U.S. authorities evacuated the Native people of the Aleutian Islands and took them to internment camps in southeast Alaska. The Attuans, after the occupation of their island, were taken to Japan as prisoners of war. The Unangan Aleut communities lost 25-40% of their people in three short years. In a final blow, the survivors from several villages on Unalaska Island,

Biorka, Kashega, and Makushin, and the village on Attu, were not allowed to return home after the war ended. The U.S. government relocated them to Unalaska, Akutan, and Atka.

More than sixty years after these villages disappeared, the National Park Service, in partnership with the Unalaska Corporation, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, is researching these villages from the Russian period to the wartime evacuation. The Lost Villages project weaves together new oral histories from the last few survivors, with archival material, ethnographic research, and historic photographs to examine social, political, and economic life in these communities before the catastrophic disruption of World War II. It also highlights the unique qualities of each village through a series of "village biographies," which incorporate detailed village descriptions, chronologies, and brief biographies of well-known village residents.

The final products of the Lost Villages project will be a book about 300 pages long and an exhibit to travel throughout the Aleutian and Pribilof region. The Lost Villages book will consist of three main parts, 1) A detailed chronology placing the villages in their larger historical context, 2) a thematic section illustrating social, political, and economic commonalities between the villages, and, 3) detailed descriptive village "biographies," from the mid-18th century to their final abandonment.

To complete the research, NPS program manager Rachel Mason wanted to take Elders from Makushin and Kashega to the sites of the villages this September. Following a short send-off reception at the Unalaska Senior Center, the crew of the FWS vessel M/V Tiġlaˆx shepherded Elders Nick Lekanof, Mary Diakanoff, and George Gordaoff and several family members aboard for a rough 5 hour voyage to Makushin. Makushin Bay was calm and sunny and the crew skiffed Mr. Nick Lekanof ashore to visit his childhood home. We made our way to the ruins of the village chapel where the family members erected a Russian Orthodox cross and cleared the vegetation from several graves. We all enjoyed a rare sunny dry Aleutian day while Mr. Lekanof told his relatives about life in the small community.

The increasingly rough seas made a trip to the further village of Kashega too difficult for the Elders and we had to return to Unalaska. We will try again next summer to get Mary and George back to their old home.



Figure 4 Elder Nick Lekanof poses with family members involved in the Lost village project

Other Agency News

Legislative News

Job Stimulus Package May Provide Opportunity for Historic Preservation Grants

House Democratic leaders began assembling proposals for a jobs stimulus package this week in an effort to jumpstart job creation and address the 10.2 percent unemployment rate across the country. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) have asked committee chairmen to submit ideas for a bill that could pass the House by its target adjournment date of December 18th. Although no final decisions have been made about the size and makeup of the stimulus, the House jobs package is almost certain to include extensions of expanded unemployment and health benefits that were part of the economic stimulus law (PL 111-5) enacted in February. Beyond that, Democrats are considering more funding for highway and other infrastructure projects they believe can create jobs as well as providing more aid to state governments facing budget shortfalls and offering new tax incentives, including one for businesses that add employees. Senate leaders also want to move a bill that focuses on jobs, but probably will not be able to act until early next year. Senate Finance Committee chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) said his staff is preparing a list of job-creating ideas in response to the House leadership's actions. Preservationists are hopeful that any jobs stimulus package will include grants for historic preservation rehabilitation projects, which have been very successful in producing jobs quickly. Congress last enacted historic preservation grants for job creation back in 1983, providing \$25

million in grants through the State Historic Preservation Offices which, in turn, provided a \$42 million match and created a \$67 million jobs act program. According to the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, this program ended up creating over 14,000 full- and part-time jobs in 955 historic rehabilitation projects at a cost of \$6,693 per job.

Lawmakers Seek Consensus on Moving Forward with Highway Bill Reauthorization

Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) announced this week that Senate authorizers will begin work "immediately" on a multi-year surface transportation bill with the goal of finishing by next spring — if Congress moves quickly on a six-month extension. Growing pressure to fund long-term, job-creating infrastructure projects and a stalemate with the House — which wants a six-year, \$500 billion highway bill — have forced the reassessment in the Senate. The House has passed legislation (HR 3617) to extend the authorization only through December, with the aim of pressuring the Senate to take up a long-term highway bill. Supporters say states cannot plan long-term projects without knowing how much aid to expect. The Senate's bill would extend the current authorization through April and chairwoman Boxer has urged Transportation Department officials to persuade Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to help break the House-Senate impasse. Unfortunately, the Senate has been unable to win unanimous consent to take up its six-month extension. In the interim, highway funding is being sustained through a continuing resolution and current authorization levels through December 18th. The lack of any progress also prompted Sen. Boxer and EPW ranking member James Inhofe (R-OK) to join the chairmen and ranking members of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation and the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs panels in signing a letter this week urging the Senate leadership to file for cloture on the Senate extension bill this year. However, on Thursday a proposal to front load \$200 billion for a two-year reauthorization was floated by Reps. Dan Mica (R-FL) and Peter DeFazio (D-OR) as a condition for supporting the Senate's interim extension to April. As outlined, the funding for the two-year authorization would be provided either from unused TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program) money or leftover stimulus funds with an eye towards completing a six-year reauthorization in the spring. The \$200 billion would be sufficient enough to allow states to begin their spring construction season without further delay and would need to be enacted by December or January at the latest to ensure the support of House Transportation and Infrastructure chairman James Oberstar (D-MN).

Training, Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

DOI Conference on the Environment

April 26-30, 2010

**Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Portland,
Oregon**

**Sponsored by the Office of Environmental Policy
and Compliance and
hosted by the National Park Service**

The conference will provide a forum for Interior staff to meet and exchange information on a wide variety of environmental topics and issues. Concurrent sessions will be held including training sessions, educational field trips, exhibits, papers, panels and poster presentations. For additional conference information, go to:
<http://www.doi.gov/greening/conference/index.html>

Archeological Resources Protection Training Program

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) presents this thirty-seven hour class which provides training in all aspects of an archeological investigation and subsequent prosecution of the crimes. This premier class is taught by accomplished instructors that are nationally recognized subject matter experts in the fields of law enforcement, archeology and law. The class cumulates in a twelve-hour archeological crime scene practical exercise where law enforcement officers and archeologist work as a team to investigate and document a crime scene. Attendees will gather and process physical evidence, write incident reports, executive summaries, search warrants, damage assessments, and provide testimony in a courtroom scenario.

No offerings listed

Contact FLETC Senior Instructor Charles Louke at (912)280-5188 for course information

There are a number of activities at the Cathlapotle plankhouse. For information on these events take a look at www.plankhouse.org