



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.

FWS Regional News:

Washington Office—

We have Podcasts! Check out the FWS Cultural Resources webpage for podcasts developed to provide visitors to the site some additional information on our program. You can access them here <http://www.fws.gov/historicpreservation/> Check under Recent News.

Preserve America—What are they doing?

Many of our Preserve America grants that we have issued over the past 3 years are beginning to bear fruit. We will be featuring update reports for several of them over the next few months. Check them out here and contact Eugene Marino for more information.

Big Muddy NFWR interprets its History with help from Preserve America Grant program

The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) obtained an opportunity to interpret the history of its Jameson Island Unit through a Preserve America Grant program. The grant originated through a productive partnership between the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Heritage Foundation Manitou Bluffs Chapter (Foundation), Arrow Rock State Historic Site (Historic Site), and the Refuge. The grant provided funding to develop five interpretive signs (figure 1), and an interpretive brochure for the Arrow Rock Landing Trail on the Refuge.

The Arrow Rock Landing Trail provides a unique historical tour for visitors to walk in the area that was a major crossroad for westward expansion during the nineteenth century. The recorded history in the area started with the Lewis and Clark expedition and ended with the close of the steamboat era on the Missouri River. This historical area also experienced the Santa

Fe Trail and conflicts during the Civil War. All these major events were interpreted in the panels. The panels also interpreted the role those historical events took upon fish, wildlife and plant resources.

The Foundation submitted the grant; the Historic Site reviewed the grant proposal and historical content of the interpretive signs and brochure. The Refuge helped design, review, and provide the location for the historical interpretation.

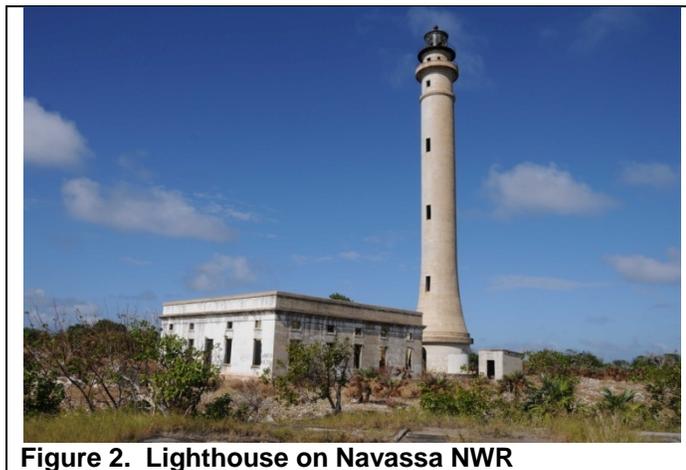


Figure 1. One of the five Interpretive Signs on The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge purchased with the Preserve America Grant

The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge proudly interpret the history of the land it manages. The Refuge receives the award of continually hearing compliments from visitors. The natural environment of the refuge now conceals the remnants of this historic era but the signs and brochure help the visitor imagine a time of manifest destiny. *Written by Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR*

Region 4—Archaeologist Rick Kanaski introduces us to one of the most remote Refuges in the system—Navassa National Wildlife Refuge

In 1914, the U.S. reclaimed the island shortly after the opening of the Panama Canal using the Guano Mining Act of 1858. To aid navigation through the reef-laden waters around Navassa, the Lighthouse Service constructed a 162-foot tall concrete tower (figure 2), a keeper's house, an outhouse, and five outbuildings. Construction was completed by 1917.



The Keeper's house (figure 2) is a concrete Spanish style residence with a central patio. A large cistern, which is located in the central patio, provided potable water for the keeper, one or two assistants, and their families. The cistern, being the only source of fresh water on the island, continues to be used by Haitian fishermen. The Lighthouse Service automated the light in 1929; the lighthouse was visited twice a year by maintenance crews. During WWII, the Navy set up an observation post—grim duty indeed. By 1996, the U.S. Coast Guard deemed the light as irrelevant for navigation and extinguished it.

Since the mid-19th century, the island has been subjected to a number of geological, terrestrial and marine biological investigations (fisheries, insects, gastropods, birds, reptiles). The island's current vegetative cover is second growth forest dominated by four tree species [poisonwood, short-leaf fig, pigeon-wood, and mastic]. Palms are sparsely scattered over the karst landscape. The vegetation appears to have been heavily impacted or influenced by the earlier mining operations; allegedly, fire was used to clear the underlying guano and oolitic mineral phosphate deposits. Fire continues to be factor in the island's ecology. Fires are deliberately set to clear limited areas of vegetation or escape from untended campfires.

Haitian fishermen, today, are the only regular visitors to the island sailing in small boats to fish in the waters around Navassa (figure 3). They camp on the island,

drawing on its various resources to augment their catch and incomes, such as the blue-footed boobies and narrow gauge rail. The rail are hand-carried to Lulutown (figure 4) and gingerly loaded onto their boats. They also plant yams, beans, and melons in small gardens, in addition to foraging for plants, such as a small wild chile. These fishermen paradoxically represent a threat to, but also hope for the conservation and management of, the island's biological and cultural resources.



Other Agency News

NPS—1998-2003 Secretary's Report to Congress on the Federal Archeology Program Available

The Secretary of the Interior's Report to Congress on the Federal Archeology Program for 1998-2003 was signed by Secretary Kempthorne on January 16, 2009, and delivered to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and to the House Committee on Natural Resources. The report, which was developed by NPS Archeology Program staff, summarizes data about the archeological activities reported by 32 Federal agencies for the period 1998 to 2003. The report also outlines challenges facing Federal agencies in carrying out stewardship responsibilities for archeological resources, and recommendations for

actions to assist Federal agencies in these responsibilities. The recommendations focus additional attention to care of archeological sites and collections; strengthening relationships with Indian tribes, and sharing information with the scientific community and the public.

A PDF of the report is available on the NPS Archeology Program website on the Secretary's Report to Congress web pages at www.nps.gov/archeology/SRC/index.htm

Contact: Frank McManamon (202-354-2123)

ACHP—Releases “A Report on Federal Historic Property Management”

In accordance with Executive Order 13287 “Preserve America,” the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has presented its report on the health of historic properties held by Federal agencies in stewardship for the American people. The report assesses how agencies are managing these assets, how these historic properties contribute to local economic development, and what can be done to improve the state of Federal stewardship. This Preserve America Executive Order Report to the President is an evaluation of Federal agencies' accomplishments in their stewardship efforts since the ACHP's first report to the President in 2006. Federal agencies provided progress reports to the ACHP in 2008 that have been summarized in this report. Based on these submissions, the ACHP has developed a series of recommendations for action to advance the goals of the Executive Order and the National Historic Preservation Act.

To read the full report, go to www.achp.gov/section3/index.html

Legislative News

A House and Senate conference agreed to a compromise \$787.2 billion version of the economic stimulus bill on Wednesday that includes \$108 billion in spending cuts spearheaded by Sens. Ben Nelson (D-NE), Susan Collins (R-ME) and Arlen Specter (R-PA). Included in the Nelson-Collins compromise was a cut of \$55 million for State and tribal preservation offices to assist in the creation of preservation-related jobs. The House and Senate conference agreement did, however, include a major compromise on school construction funding via state stabilization funding (and the inclusion of an Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) patch, which ultimately reduced the amount of stimulus spending in other areas to keep the cost of the bill

below \$800 billion. The legislation includes many items that will coincide with federal preservation, among them construction projects as well as “green” building projects. Primary projects for the Service include, construction, greening, and youth employment programs.

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

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

FLETC Offering Archeological Resource Protection Training

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) presents a 37 hour class which provides training in all aspects of an archeological investigation and subsequent prosecution of crimes. This premier class is taught by accomplished instructors that are nationally recognized subject matter experts in the fields of law enforcement, and archeology and law. The class cumulates in a 12 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.

The course will be offered through the Navy, in Jacksonville, Florida, on April 13-17, 2009, and at Acadia NP, Winter Harbor, Maine, on April 27-May 1, 2009.

For registration information, contact Virginia McCleskey, 912-554-4828. For all other questions, please contact Senior Instructor Charles Louke, 912-280-5188.

April 25 - Commemoration of Francis Marion & Battle of Fort Watson at Santee Indian Mound/Fort Watson Archaeological Site complete with wreath & color guard. Sponsored by Sons of the American Revolution & the DAR. Held in conjunction with the birding festival at Santee NWR. Open to public & festival participants. Ceremony at 11 am on the 25th.