



Historical Happenings

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

May

WONDERFUL THINGS

What's New at HQ?

Meg Van Ness, the Region 6 Regional Historic Preservation Officer, was on detail here in HQ from April 12-26. Meg helped develop structure for some new historic property initiatives that we hope to launch soon. She also met with staff from the Department of the Interior and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Meg also attended the Visitor Services portion of the Spring Refuge Academy, lending her cultural resources expertise to the Q&A segment of that program.

It was a full two weeks and I am very grateful for her being here and taking time from her busy schedule.

Thank you Meg!! Come back any time!

We have a winner!!!!

Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge in Montana has received the first National Wildlife Refuge System Historic Preservation Award. The award was presented for their exceptional stewardship of the Whaley Homestead (<http://bit.ly/2ngwWJe>), which has been part of the refuge since it was established in 1964.

The Whaley Homestead was settled in 1877 by Peter Whaley, an Irish immigrant whose family came to the United States in 1841. The house and outbuildings retain an excellent level of historic integrity, according to its nomination for the

National Register of Historic Places designation. Peter Whaley died in 1912.

The Historic Preservation Award was launched late in 2016 to highlight achievements in the care and stewardship of cultural resources through innovative use of funds, development of partnerships, and use of the resource to educate local communities.

Congratulations to Tom Reed and all his staff!!!!

Check out the newly launched historic storyboard that focuses on the Trail of Tears. The storyboard was developed by the HQ Refuges Branch of Communication and illustrates Refuges along the trail. Check it out here <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/features/trail-of-tears/index.html>

Around the Regions....

Region 3

Minnesota Valley NWR will host the 2017 installment of our Preservation Skills Workshop (the FWS hands on historic preservation training for Wage Grade staff). The training will be held **September 11-15, 2017**. For more information and to register, James Myster (Region 3 Regional Historic Preservation Officer at 612-713- 5439 or Clint DeMenge R3 Heavy Equipment Coordinator at 218-768- 2402.

Region 4

Excavations at St. Mark's Refuge are part of on-going restoration efforts for the Lighthouse using grants made available by the Refuge's Friends group. Figs 1-5 show



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recent archaeological testing in the interior of the St. Marks LH



Figure 1 removing the floor in room's NW corner



Figure 2 Cistern, NE corner. The brick cistern is 10 feet x 7 feet and 10 feet deep.



Figure 2-top of "shell-crete" horizon in U2



Figure 3-surface below floor, NW corner

In addition to archaeological investigations, the Region also took part in a March 11 Discovery Day at Savannah Coastal Refuges Visitor Center and Headquarters. A well-attended activity was the educational archaeological dig site (fig 4 and 5).



Figure 4 Screening dirt from the 'mock' site



Figure 5. Getting sage instruction from Regional Archaeologist, Rick Kanaski.

Other Agency News

TRAINING, UPCOMING EVENTS, EDUCATION, AND NEWS

Upcoming FWS Events NEXT MONTH!!

The Pacific Region is gearing up for the 75th Commemoration of the Battle of Midway in June 2017. An interactive website, social media campaign and an event are being planned to commemorate the Battle of Midway and to honor those who served at this critical turning point of the War in the Pacific during WWII. The ceremony and associated outreach will be focused on the history and importance of the Battle of Midway, what it means today, as well as for the future.

If you or anyone you know has any resources (memorabilia, images, etc) associated with the BOM, or know of a BOM veteran who might be willing to be interviewed, or if you have any suggestions regarding the type of information you'd like to see in a website that is designed to promote understanding of the human experience at BOM and generate interest in the June 4, 2017 event, please contact virginia_parks@fws.gov.

Sacred Sites Training

The signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Indian Sacred Sites (MOU) are proud to announce the release of *Native American Sacred Sites and the Federal Government*. The online training video is available at <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/video/sacred-sites-training-video>. You can also access the course through the ACHP's website at www.achp.gov.

The signatories, in coordination with subject matter experts from across the federal government, Indian Country, academia, and tribal advocacy groups, developed the training for use by federal, state, and tribal governments, and for anyone interested in learning about sacred sites protection.

The MOU was first signed in 2012 by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Departments of Defense, the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy. In 2016, the signatories amended the agreement to extend the MOU to December 31, 2024. The MOU commits the signatories to work together to improve the protection of and tribal access to sacred sites.

Please feel free to share the training widely within your agency and consider incorporating it into existing internal agency training programs. You might also share it with contractors and cultural resource professionals with whom your agency works. We are confident that this course is an important and useful complement to agency historic preservation or cultural resources training and that it will help anyone working in this field to have a better understanding about sacred sites and their importance to Indian tribes.

NPS Vanishing Treasures Catalog

The NPS Vanishing Treasures is offering 15, two- to four-day technical and cultural resource management preservation workshops across the Western US in 2017. Foundation courses cover the basics of historic preservation and are strongly recommended for all students before taking Core, Materials, and Special Topics courses.

Core courses are designed to move students through the standard preservation process, dedicating each workshop to a specific phase in the progression of a preservation project. Core courses are hands-on but do not include instruction on treatment options, which are covered in Materials courses. Core workshops will be offered yearly on a rotating basis.

Materials workshops cover the history of use, technology, and treatment of major building materials. Students can choose from Wood, Masonry, and Earthen Building Materials tracks and are required to complete introductory courses or their equivalent before progressing to advanced topics. Like Core courses, Materials workshops will be offered yearly on a rotating basis.

The Vanishing Treasures Program supports the preservation of traditionally-built architecture, facilitates the perpetuation of traditional skills, and promotes connections between culturally associated communities and places of their heritage. The program helps parks, associated communities, and partner organizations to develop and implement proactive historic preservation programs founded in science, technology, and applied research through the delivery of expert technical assistance and training. Courses are open to federal, state and local government employees; private sector contractors,



consultants, architects and design professionals; students; non-profit employees; and homeowners. The program's core activities address the survival of an outstanding collection of significant and unique heritage resources and the traditional knowledge and skills needed to build and maintain those resources.

There is no tuition for these courses; however, trainees are responsible for travel and lodging.

To learn more about Vanishing Treasures Program courses, go to <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1022/index.htm>

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

H.R. 473-Military LAND Act of 2017

Sponsor: Rep. Issa (R-CA)

Status: Pending before the House Natural Resources Committee
Just as he did in each of the past three congresses, Representative Issa has introduced his Military LAND Act. The bill would amend the National Historic Preservation Act to allow federal land-managing agencies to object to the inclusion of properties under their control to the National Register, or its designation as a National Historic Landmark, for national security reasons. It would also allow land managers to remove properties already listed on the National Register. Last year, the provision was included in the House version of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). SAA and other preservation groups fought the measure in the Senate, however, and were successful in keeping the language out of the final version of the NDAA. We will continue to vigorously oppose this bill in the new Congress.

H.R. 602-Local Law Enforcement for Local Lands Act

Sponsor: Rep. Chaffetz (R-UT)

Status: Pending before the House Natural Resources and Agriculture Committees

This bill would end the law enforcement functions of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (USFS), and send the funding of those offices to states, under a block grant formula, to police BLM and USFS lands. SAA opposes this measure for several reasons, including our concern that local officials will not have the time or training necessary to safeguard archaeological resources under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

H.R. 801-Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act

Sponsor: Rep. LaHood (R-IL)

Status: Pending before the House Natural Resources Committee

This legislation would create the 2,400-mile Route 66 National Historic Trail, running from Chicago to Santa Monica. The bill would prevent the federal government from acquiring land more than an average of one-quarter mile beyond either side of the highway. SAA is studying the measure.

H.R. 1002-National Heritage Areas Act

Sponsor: Rep. Dent (R-PA)

Status: Pending before the House Natural Resources Committee

This bill would create a National Heritage Area System within the Department of Interior to "conserve, enhance, and interpret natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources that together tell nationally significant stories representing our country's heritage," and to provide a single standard process for the creation of new Heritage Areas and their management plans. Existing Heritage Areas would be folded into the new system. The legislation would also allocate \$700,000 to each Heritage Area per fiscal year. SAA understands the important role that National Heritage Areas play in helping preserve American culture, and is studying the potential impact of this measure.

S. 282-Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act

Sponsor: Sen. Heller (R-NV)

Status: Pending before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

The legislation is designed to streamline the environmental review and permitting processes at the Department of Interior for renewable energy development projects (solar, wind, and geothermal) on federal land. SAA is participating in several energy development project reviews, including the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. As such, we are very aware of the importance of thorough reviews and mitigation planning in protecting cultural and natural resources, and will examine this legislation to ensure that the process it envisions will still be effective. A companion bill, H.R. 825, is pending before the House Natural Resources and Agriculture Committees.

Other

Various bills have been introduced in the House and Senate (H.R. 243, S. 22, S. 33, S. 132) that would alter the method by which National Monuments could be created under the Antiquities Act. SAA and other preservation groups are working to oppose these measures, as we have in the past. At this point, it is still unclear what position the new Trump administration will take on preservation issues.

Thanks to Terry Childs (DOI) and Karen Mudar (NPS) for news stories and other contributions for this issue of HH.

VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS NEWS

Check for more news soon!



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