



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

November 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

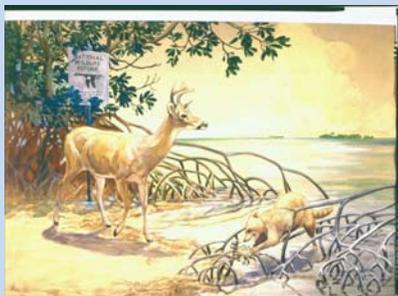
Robert Hines and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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:

Region 6

Archaeology and Conservation Biology—A Rewarding Partnership

Large mammal bones were found in 1971 on what is known as the Goetz site on the National Elk Refuge during limited excavations by the University of Wyoming. In 2001, a reassessment of the site was begun with formal investigations funded by a grant from the Earthwatch Institute and a Challenge Cost Share grant from the Fish and Wildlife Service. The refuge provided administrative and heavy equipment support. Earthwatch volunteers from 16 states and six countries enthusiastically provided more than 6,000 hours of labor.



Figure 1 View of Goetz site excavation area

Led by Ken Cannon and Molly Boeka Cannon of the Midwest Archaeological Center of the National Park Service, the dig included hand excavation and backhoe trenching. Geophysical surveys and three-dimensional mapping are being used to locate cultural materials and manage data. Bones of bison and elk were found as well as signs of cooking and stone tool production. The entire area was once covered by glaciers so a valley with steep walls may have served as a natural game trap. A spring at the base of the valley may have attracted both large mammals and humans.



Figure 2 Volunteers excavate artifacts from the site

Local high school groups have visited the site and high school and college students have been involved in the research. Artifacts are not currently on display and the site is not open to the public, but Cannon says there will be a poster display at the Bureau of Land Management National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming and other presentations are also planned.

Cannon says a major focus of the research has been to illustrate the value of archaeology in addressing conservation biology and public land management. Detailed study of bison and their ecology was precluded due to their near extinction in the 1880s. Therefore much of what we know about bison and their ecology is based on anecdotal historic records and modern studies of small, isolated populations which represent only a fraction of their original range. What we hope to provide in this study is a more robust understanding of bison ecology over a period of thousands of years and under various climatic regimes. In essence to provide a baseline of pre-European conditions against which modern conditions can be assessed.

While ecologists, conservation biologists, and resource planners and managers have typically been trained to view ecosystem function in synchronic terms, paleo-scientists have been trained to think in terms of diachronic processes and long temporal spans. By the very nature of our data we can provide the long-term view of ecosystem change.

Region 7—

2009 Rat Island Challenge Grant Project: Rats and Birds: Tracking Ecological Change with Evidence from Prehistoric to Historic Aleut Village Midden Test Excavations

Written by Caroline Funk, Project Director
 Debbie Corbett, USFWS, Alaska Regional Archaeologist and Senior Scientist
 Brian Hoffman, Hamline University – St. Paul, Senior Scientist
 Beth Reynolds, Student Volunteer

The Rats and Birds archaeology crew stumped across three islands in the western Aleutians and labored over lab tables in museums in Alaska and Washington D.C. during the 2009 project supported by a USFWS Challenge Grant. The main goal of the project is to provide the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Seabird Restoration Project with a composite image of prehistoric, and pre-rat and fox, bird species distributions on the Rat Islands. The only source for this information is archaeological sites, which were deposited by Aleuts who lived on the islands and harvested birds among them for more than three thousand years.



Figure 3 Identifying archaeological sites during the Kiska survey

In May and June, the team spent thirteen days on Rat and Kiska Islands with two goals: find new Aleut sites along the shore and in upland locations, and test all sites to acquire a dated sequence of bird skeletons that spans the introduction of invasive species to the islands. Twenty-one new sites were found and tested on Rat and Kiska Islands, and three known sites were tested, including one opportunistically tested on nearby Amatignak Island during a bird research team drop-off. During our survey on Kiska, we also identified a previously unknown WWII Japanese fighter plane. We now have thirteen new radiocarbon dates for the western Aleutians that range from over 3,000 years ago to Russian arrival in the islands. Several of the sites yielded small bird bone assemblages, and five sites demonstrated the potential for rich, undisturbed bone sequences that will provide fine-grained data in future excavations. Many of the sites with northern exposures

on the two islands are experiencing catastrophic erosion, and will be completely gone within decades.

In July, the Rats and Birds project shifted to the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks to examine previously excavated materials from sites on Amchitka Island. In four days, we removed over 500 diagnostic bird tarsometatarsi and humeri from the collections of six archaeological sites. These bones and the bird bones excavated on Rat and Kiska Islands will be identified to species in the Birds Division of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in October. During that time, the Rats and Birds project will be presented to a group of fourth graders at a school focused on the sciences in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In addition to providing important data about pre-rat bird populations in the Rat Islands, the project also significantly enhances current knowledge regarding Aleut occupation of the Rat Islands. It is the first phase of longer term research focused on understanding Aleut influences on the Rat Islands land- and seascapes and the processes of historic contact between indigenous and alien cultures. The cooperation among researchers, students, agencies and organizations has made it possible to further research, mentor new scientists and develop information that can be used in long term refuge management.

Other Agency News

NPS—National Park Service Chief Archeologist Retiring

WASHINGTON – National Park Service (NPS) Chief Archeologist and Departmental Consulting Archeologist Francis P. Pierce-McManamon is retiring from the agency he has worked for over the past 32 years. According to the NPS Mr. McManamon will officially retire in November, 2009.

Legislative News

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.

XP-ARPTP-102 / Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, New Orleans, La – November – 02-06, 2009

This class is open to all sworn law enforcement officers, prosecutors and Federal Archeologist. To register please contact your agencies training representative at FLETC.

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

