



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

October 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

The Photo Archives at DC

Booth National Historic Fish Hatchery

April Gregory, museum intern

Cameras, cell phones and iPod's all have one thing in common. Most nowadays are capable of taking, sending, and receiving photographs. The still image has become hugely disposable and common in everyday life. The days of buying film, putting it in your camera, taking photos, and developing photos or slides seem like so much work in comparison to the instant gratification of digital photography. Yet there's still something satisfying about that "old fashioned" photography, about being able to physically hold it, study it and understand the process of how it was made and the image it is representing.

The D.C. Booth Historic Fish Hatchery and Archives recently acquired two large boxes of photographic transparency slides from the Atlanta Fisheries Office. Almost all of the slides are photos of fish culture and recreation. The collection of slides was put together by Arnold Rakes, who is now retired. Rakes used the slides in projection slideshows to teach with during the 1980's at the Fisheries Academy in Leetown, West Virginia. The academy was established in 1977 in order to provide training in fishery management and husbandry.

Rakes had to do a considerable amount of work in order to obtain such a huge collection. Gathering such a large collection before the digital age was a lot more work than simply doing an internet search and gathering photos from around the world in a matter of moments. Included in the collection are several copies of correspondence that were exchanged to borrow and copy images. The collection includes photo slides from National Fish Hatcheries all across the United States, as well as several National Wildlife Refuges and private organizations and individuals.

Many slides in the collection document equipment and techniques used in fish hatcheries during the 1970's and 1980's. The collection has a nice balance of different types of photos, from detail shots to overall shots. Many of the detail shots clearly show equipment used such as circular tanks, egg trays, hatching jars and distribution trucks. Architecturally and historically, many slides show hatchery entrance signs and buildings at National Fish Hatcheries in the 1970's and 80's. And lastly, a portion of the slides document one of the main goals of hatcheries, people enjoying recreational fishing.

The storage and access of the slides is not quite as easy as digital photographs, they cannot be accessed and found with a few clicks of the mouse. Each slide was placed in special plastic storage sheets and put in acid-free binders. Someday we hope to scan all of the slides into the computer system for Internet access and backup storage, but until then they will be housed in the D.C. Booth climate controlled storage area. And even when they do become available online, hopefully people will continue to access the original slides at D.C. Booth so they can physically hold them, study them, and understand the process of how they were made and the images they represent.

FWS Regional News:

Washington Office

The recently completed Preservation Skills workshop at Chincoteague was a huge success (figure 1). Participants were instructed in masonry and painting techniques used on historic buildings and were successful in re-pointing the Lighthouse oil shed. Staff estimate that the work saved the Refuge approximately \$20,000



Figure 1 Group photo of workshop participants

Region 3

The Green Bay NWR, Plum Island Life-Saving Station and Lighthouse is one of 12 finalists for the National Trust's "This Place Matters" contest. Voting continues through October 9th. Thanks to Dave Kluth, Region 3 Historic Preservation Officer, for the information and hard work. To vote go to

<http://my.preservationnation.org/site/Page>

[Server?pagename=thisplacematters](#) and follow instructions for voting.



Figure 2. Friends, Service staff, and Girl Scouts hold a This Place Matters sign for a “finalist” photo for the National Historic Trust contest.

Region 6—

The Bitterroot Valley was the first region of Montana to see settlements of EuroAmericans from the east, circa 1841. The buildings on the refuge today reflect some of the earliest agricultural activity and settlement patterns in the valley. A functioning farm until government acquisition, the Whaley Homestead reflects the continuum of land use change in the Bitterroot Valley. Since its creation in 1963, the refuge has sought to preserve and protect the Whaley Homestead. Refuge staff worked to list the Whaley Homestead (figure 3) on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.



Figure 3 the Whaley Homestead

The Whaley Homestead is a masterfully-crafted two-story log farmhouse that is clad with wooden clapboards. The grounds are shaded by large cottonwood trees overlooking some of western Montana’s finest waterfowl habitat. The home was originally built by Peter Whaley, an Indian agent and contemporary of John Owen and other pioneering settlers in the Bitterroot. The house and farm eventually passed to the Harold Hagen family, who were prominent potato farmers in the area. Annual rainfall averages a mere 11 inches, but agriculture was successful thanks to a seventy mile long irrigation ditch, already in place by 1905, which distributed captured

mountain snowmelt from a large watershed. Contrast this to the Salish, Native Americans that lived here as hunter/gatherers; who subsisted primarily on the tuber of the Bitterroot (State flower).

During the 1978 dedication ceremony renaming the Refuge to honor the late Senator Lee Metcalf, Harold Hagen spoke and said “I believe that we have attempted to mold the land to our ideas, to what it should produce when the land should have shaped our ideas and dictated to us what it could best produce.” This wisdom makes the Whaley Homestead a place for tremendous interpretive potential relating the Bitterroot’s early 20th century agricultural boom with historic wildlife narratives of Lewis & Clark and contrasting with the recent housing boom.

To realize this potential, the Refuge and Regional Office Cultural Resources staff, in partnership with the Montana Preservation Alliance (MPA) and a host of community volunteers, has actively worked on the Homestead over the last two years. Thanks to a Fish and Wildlife Service Preserve America grant, the MPA has been able to facilitate restoration work, provide guidance on proper stewardship of the homestead, consulting with a variety of experts, and providing alternative interpretive plans for the Homestead.

The organized workdays not only restored the integrity of the structure, but became a catalyst for a rich exchange of stories. About 25 descendants of Peter Whaley gathered for a workday in July. Bob Whaley told of his father shooting geese off the Homestead porch. Betty Jean Wightman went into the Homestead for the first time ever taking in the view from the upstairs bedroom that for so long she had imagined...“awesome, what a legacy.”

A legacy, indeed, on many levels that the Refuge incrementally weaves into its wildlife mission in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley.

For more information contact Bob Danley, Lee Metcalf NWR.

Other Agency News

NPS—the Director of the National Park Service has formally approved two new THPOs

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Legislative News

Senate Passes FY'10 Interior Bill

The Senate passed the FY10 Interior Appropriations bill (H.R. 2996) this week by a vote of 77-21. The Senate Interior bill funds the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) at \$74.5 million, including \$20 million for the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program, \$46.5 million for State Historic Preservation Offices, \$8 million for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and \$3.175 million for the Preserve America program (from the National Park Service construction account).

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

Check out the new Weatherization Guide from PreservationNation available at www.preservationnation.org/issues/weatherization

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-101 /Apostle Islands National Lakeshore NP, Bayfield, Wisconsin – October 19 – 23, 2009

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