



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

September 2006

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.

FWS Regional News:

Washington Office:

The National Wildlife Refuge System and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announce their Preserve America grant program. Preserve America is a national initiative that directs Federal agencies to account for the economic and educational value of their historic properties (www.preserveamerica.gov). These properties, which encompass historic buildings, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, and museum collections are integral parts of the habitats contained within Refuges. Understanding their importance will only enhance the capability of the NWRS to conserve all of its resources.

The grants, which range from \$10,000 to \$15,000, are competitive and aimed at funding national wildlife refuge educational and interpretive projects that focus on history and historic sites and collections and how they contribute to our conservation and understanding of natural resources.

Please take a look at the Recent News section of the FWS homepage (<http://historicpreservation.fws.gov>) for more information and a link to the RFP. Contact Eugene Marino, 703-358-2173 (phone); eugene_marino@fws.gov

Region 3— When the staff of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Minnesota (Fergus Falls Wetland Management District) started planning their new exhibits a few years ago, they wanted to include a space to show interpretive videos, but didn't want to have just a carpeted room or other sterile space. Looking at past visitation, they realized that many members of the local community had relatives that had

homesteaded in the area, some with grandparents who grew up on the prairie in the late 1800s. The prairies of western Minnesota shaped the culture and society, and to a large degree, the people that settled here shaped the prairie that exists today.

The staff designed a theater reminiscent of a sod house (Figure 1) – the type of home that the typical western Minnesota homesteader would have lived in when they first arrived on the prairie in the 1860s. Using historical photographs of sod houses and their residents, reproductions and other items on loan from the local historical society, as well as items purchased by the Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, the sod house theater brings back the stories and feelings from a century ago. Of course, most sod houses back then didn't have big screen TV's and DVD players!

This unique theater is also used for small interpretive programs, and is a popular exhibit in its own right for the many families that visit the Center. The tie to the local culture has prompted many a conversation with older visitors, some with stories of relatives who lived in sod houses themselves.

So how does a historical exhibit like this further the Service mission? The connection with the heritage of the local community and the memories of what the prairie was like in the past often lead to discussions of what we are doing today to restore, manage and preserve prairie within the Wetland District. It provides relevance for our visitors as they walk the trails at the Center, and see the grasses and forbs they remember from their youth. Finally, it provides a bridge from the past to the present as grandparents; parents and children reconnect with a part of American history. For more information contact Ken Garrahan at Ken_Garrahan@fws.gov

Region 4— The South Carolina SHPO Office, the US Army Corps of Engineers, (Corps) and the Service cooperated to complete section 106 compliance for the Sangamo West/Twelevemile Creek/ Lake Hartwell Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan.

Twelve Mile Creek is located in Pickens County, South Carolina, in the northwestern corner of the state. The stream flows west into Lake Hartwell, a Corps reservoir on the Georgia/South Carolina border. Sangamo Weston, Inc. operated a capacitor manufacturing plant in Pickens County from 1955 to 1977; the facility released an estimated 441,000 lbs of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into Twelvemile Creek. Historical sampling has documented the presence of PCB contamination in the sediments, surface water and fish from the plant site downstream to the Lake Hartwell Dam.

The Service, the Corps, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the South Carolina Office of the Governor, have reached a settlement of the natural resource damage claims brought against the current owner of the Sangamo Weston Plant Site, Schlumberger Technology Corporation. Schlumberger has agreed to pay \$11.8 million in damages and to spend an additional \$8 to \$10 million to purchase and remove two century-old hydroelectric dams on Twelvemile Creek, known as the Woodside I and II dams (Figure 2). The removal of the two dams will provide multiple ecological benefits for Twelvemile Creek, including improving the biodiversity and population density of species along a free-flowing stream, and the burial of PCB sediments.

The Woodside I and II dams are located a mile apart on Twelvemile Creek. They were built in 1895 and 1901, respectively, to supply hydroelectric power to a cotton textile factory called Norris Mill.

The Service acted as the lead federal agency for the project, in partnership with the Savannah Corps of Engineers. Richard Warner, the staff archeologist for FWS Ecological Services, wrote the draft MOA, and



Figure 1. View of the sod-house style Prairie Wetlands Learning Center theater



Figure 2. Woodside Dam along the Twelvemile Creek

coordinated the overall NHPA compliance. Mitigation for this project includes measured drawings, Archival quality photography, and field photography, recording for the dams and their setting. The mitigation terms also include a stipulation for writing a concise overview of the history and development of the textile industry in the Appalachian or 'Upstate' region of South Carolina. This overview context will be posted on the South Carolina SHPO office website. In addition, a copy of a historical monograph "The Cateechee Story" by Jerry Alexander will be distributed to both federal agencies, the Pickens County historical society, and to the SHPO. The author is a local resident and historian, and the history includes extensive documentation on the technology, social history, and economic history of the Norris Mill and the village of Cateechee. Finally, the applicant must leave a physical trace of the dams in place; this will likely include at least the indentation in the rock banks denoting the size and shape of each dam. For more information contact Richard Warner; Richard_Warner@fws.gov

Other Agency News

White House—Announces the establishment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument. This monument encompasses area contained within several federal agencies including FWS. See

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/06/20060615-18.html> for more information.

ACHP—Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States and Honorary Chair of the *Preserve America* initiative, announced today that in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation she will lead a national *Preserve America* Summit in October, 18-20, 2006 in New Orleans to mark the 40th anniversary of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Those four decades have seen great progress in the stewardship and productive use of America's historic properties, and more opportunities lie ahead. The national *Preserve America* Summit will explore opportunities to build on this progress.

DOI—Interagency Seamless Network Summit
Building a Seamless Network of the Nation's Ocean and Coastal Refuges, Reserves, Parks and Sanctuaries

A General Agreement was signed yesterday between the Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to increase the coordination of Parks, Sanctuaries, Reserves, and Refuges in their efforts to develop a seamless network to protect and conserve the nation's ocean and coastal refuges, reserves, parks and sanctuaries.

"The General Agreement mandates that we work together to protect these invaluable natural and cultural resources, said Kameran Onley, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior." "We will now be more effective in our ability to attain greater results through the exchange of agency resources."

"We have today taken an important step in implementing the President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan, said Tim Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce." "Our increased coordination will mean better management and protection of some very special marine and coastal areas both in the immediate future and for generations to come."

The National Park System, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, and the National Wildlife Refuge System conserve a rich assemblage of coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources located from above the Arctic Circle to below the Equator in both

hemispheres. The President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan charged these programs to better manage special marine and coastal areas in this nation. When implemented, the Seamless Network agreement will facilitate and enhance scientific understanding and conservation of coastal and marine resources, and increase coordination with state, public, and private partners.

Although they were created under separate authorities, these programs share similar resource management concerns. The result of this agreement will be greater operational and administrative efficiencies. It will include expanded partnerships among Parks, Refuges, Sanctuaries, and Reserves where they overlap or adjoin each other, and where they address similar issues of conservation and management.

During the first year of this agreement, plans will be developed to address priorities identified in the agreement. In addition, regional workshops will be conducted to identify local priorities and projects, consistent with the areas of focus in the agreement. Agencies will explore how to coordinate and facilitate the financial and administrative process to allow a timely transfer of funds, and effective sharing of facilities, vessels, equipment, personnel and other resources.

The agreement complements the Executive Order 13158 which calls for a national system of marine protected areas and with Executive Order 13352 on cooperative conservation.

NAGPRA—Two new consultation resources:
[Cultural affiliation and geographic data](#) from **published notices**, and [Indian Land Cessions 1784-1894](#) by State and County.

Legislative News

The House Resources Committee approved legislation to reauthorize the National Historic Preservation Act. HR 5861 would make a number of changes to the act at the request of the CHP, an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement and productive use of historic resources.

These changes, present in both the original version of the bill and a substitute offered by bill sponsor Rep. Steve Pearce, R-N.M., are aimed at preventing the use of a historic eligibility designation to impede development on privately owned land, according to the Resources Committee.

These changes would require a local government that received funds under the act, and that wished to use eligibility determinations to trigger local regulatory requirements, to provide due process protection to property owners through a hearing process.

The bill, as amended, also would make some changes to the makeup and rules of the council, allow the council to contract out financial and administrative services and to enter into cooperative agreements, and allow the council to report to Congress and the president on the effectiveness of its grant program and recommendations about funding levels.

The substitute would authorize "such amounts as may be necessary." As introduced, the bill would have authorized \$5 million annually through fiscal 2008 and then at \$6 million annually through 2015.

The substitute also would give a state or tribal historical preservation officer a 30-day deadline to object to a determination that a project would not harm a historic resource.

Further, it would clarify that a federal agency does not have the authority to require an applicant for federal assistance, a permit or a license to identify historical resources outside the area of the proposed project.

In 2004, a "discussion draft" bill addressing the same issue would have narrowed the eligibility requirements of historical sites, but that approach met with considerable resistance from the conservation community, according to the Resources Committee.

Training News

The National Preservation Institute, a nonprofit organization founded in 1980, educates those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage. The 2006 National Preservation Institute seminar schedule is now available online at www.npi.org.

Native American Cultural Property Law

Santa Fe, NM — September 27-28, 2006
in cooperation with the National Park Service,
Intermountain Region
and the New Mexico Department of Transportation

Review the use of federal, state, and tribal law to manage and protect Native American cultural property

under NAGPRA, ARPA, the Antiquities Act, NHPA, NEPA, AIRFA, The Indian Arts and Crafts Act, Sacred Sites, and selected state and tribal codes, with special emphasis on the collections aspects of NAGPRA. Discussion will cover the government-to-government obligations of federal and state agencies, the fiduciary responsibility to tribes, and applications related to cultural property through human rights law (sec. 1983), contract and tort applications, and intellectual/intangible property law. An agenda is available online at www.npi.org.

Instructor: C. Timothy McKeown, Ph.D., National NAGPRA Program, National Park Service; trainer in and author of articles on burials, repatriation, and the applicability of preservation law to Native American culture

A registration form is available online at www.npi.org/register.html. The regular registration rate is \$425.

Tuition waivers funded by the National NAGPRA Program, National Park Service, are available for staff and members of tribes for this seminar. Please use the regular NPI registration form and note "NAGPRA Tuition Waiver requested" on the form.

The general NPI News Release "Professional Seminars in Historic Preservation & Cultural Resource Management" includes the seminar calendar from September 2006 through July 2007 plus descriptions of NPI seminars. It can be viewed and downloaded by visiting www.npi.org/NewsRelease2006/07.pdf.

Questions? Please contact us. Thank you.

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