

U.S. National Park Service International Programs Quarterly Bulletin



April – September 2009

Welcome to our special double issue of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) International Programs Quarterly Bulletin – we've been extremely busy the past six months - issued by the NPS Office of International Affairs (OIA). Additional information on NPS international activities can be found at the NPS OIA webpage: <http://www.nps.gov/oia>

In this Issue:

- Fighting Illegal Trafficking in Khmer Antiquities
- Field Evaluations for US World Heritage Nominations
- Assessing Haiti's World Heritage Site
- Denali Hosts Japan-US Interpreter Training Seminar
- Russian Imperial Gardens Festival
- Italian Wetlands Conference
- IUCN/UNESCO Mission to Waterton-Glacier
- NPS-China Action Plan Signed
- World Heritage Karst Sites Become Sister Parks
- "Leading Strategic Change" Course To Be Offered to Park Managers
- Norwegians Participate in Civil War Remembrance
- Miscellaneous News

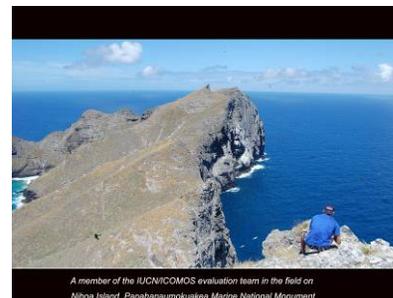
Fighting Illegal Trafficking in Khmer Antiquities

Due to criminal investigations conducted by NPS law enforcement involving Khmer antiquities, the U.S. State Department and the FBI requested NPS participation at a conference on antiquity looting and trafficking in Siam Reap, Cambodia. While in-country, an NPS special agent worked with the FBI as an instructor at two law enforcement training sessions conducted for the Cambodian National Police, concerning antiquity investigations in Phnom Penh. Following this, a visit to temple sites including Angkor Wat, Banteay Srei, Bakong and Preah Vihear provided NPS an opportunity to meet Cambodian National Police command and field staff and APSARA Authority representatives, and to speak with representatives of the Patrimony Police about current looting and preservation concerns. For more information, contact Todd Swain, at todd_swain@nps.gov



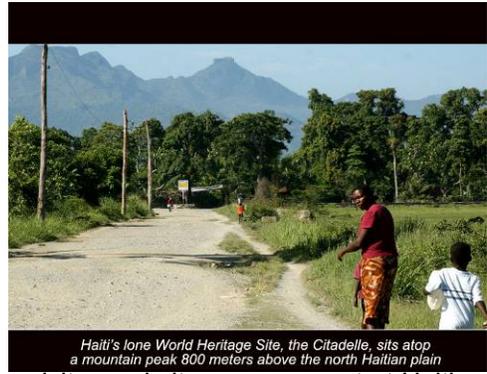
U.S. World Heritage Nominees Receive Evaluations

In 2009, the U.S. made its first nominations to the World Heritage List in 15 years - **Mount Vernon**, Virginia and **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument** in the northwest Hawaiian Islands. Site visits to nominated properties by representatives of the World Heritage Committee's advisory bodies - the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for natural properties and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for cultural sites - are an important part of the evaluation process. During summer 2009, both properties were visited by IUCN and/or ICOMOS experts to examine management and protection issues. Their reports will be submitted to IUCN and ICOMOS panels that will provide recommendations regarding the nominated sites' "Outstanding Universal Value" by Spring 2010. The World Heritage Committee will consider these nominations at their next session in Brazil in July 2010. For more information, contact Jon Putnam, at jonathan_putnam@nps.gov



Assessing Haiti's World Heritage Site

Responding to a request by the Haitian Prime Minister and the Senate Resources Committee Chairman for technical assistance on both natural and cultural resource management, the NPS worked with the USAID Mission to send an assessment team to Haiti's lone World Heritage Site – Citadelle/Ramiers/San Souci – in northern Haiti, as well as to two natural national park sites in southern and central Haiti to meet with a variety of stakeholders and government officials. NPS staff shared their observations with the USAID Mission and the Haitian Prime Minister, along with practical recommendations for management of these sites. This is expected to be the beginning of a long-term effort to help improve visitor and site management at Haitian national heritage venues. For more information, contact Rudy D'Alessandro, at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov



Haiti's lone World Heritage Site, the Citadelle, sits atop a mountain peak 800 meters above the north Haitian plain

Denali hosts Japan-US Interpreter Training Seminar

Japanese park interpretation rangers participated in the 15th annual Japan-U.S. Interpreter Training Seminar, held at **Denali National Park**. Jointly organized by NPS and the Association for Interpretation-Japan, the seminar is supported by staff from the NPS Albright Training Center, and Denali's interpretation and resource management staffs. Japanese park staff, many of whom work under contract from the national or local government, selected the Seminar's theme - "Interpretation and Wildlife in National Parks." Sessions focused on techniques of interpretation in Alaska's national park units, wildlife conservation and interpretation, bear management and use of sled dogs to patrol the park during the long Alaskan winters. For more information, contact Rudy D'Alessandro, at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov.



Participants of the 15th Japan-US Interpreter Training Seminar at Denali National Park, with Mount McKinley in the background.

Russian Imperial Gardens Festival

NPS's **Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation** participated in the "Imperial Gardens of Russia International Festival" in St. Petersburg. NPS gave a seminar on its role in preserving significant U.S. cultural landscapes and the use of labyrinths in U.S. landscape design. At a related conference titled "Landscape Design in the City: Historical Landscapes in the Modern Era," sponsored by the St. Petersburg State Forest Technical Academy and the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), held in the Mikhailovsky Castle, NPS gave a keynote presentation on "Historic Landscape Management: Combining Science and Art." The first "Imperial Gardens of Russia" International Festival was held in 2008 with the aim of engaging the public in a celebration of the history of St. Petersburg gardens, and use of the gardens as a venue to explore contemporary art. For more information, contact Bob Page, at bob_page@nps.gov.



Opening remarks at the 2nd Imperial Gardens of Russia Festival in St. Petersburg

Italian Wetlands Conference

Accepting an invitation from the **Parco Regionale del Po Delta**, a National Park Service representative participated in a conference highlighting the park's resource stewardship issues. The park preserves some of Italy's most productive and biologically diverse areas including its largest expanse of protected wetlands. The conference was attended by scientists undertaking park studies, regional naturalists, government representatives, and park partners. NPS gave a presentation on natural resource management activities in the U.S., highlighting the NPS inventory and monitoring of natural resources and international bird conservation activities, particularly the Park Flight Program. For more details, contact Mary Foley at mary_foley@nps.gov



Italy's Parco Regionale del Po Delta National Park

UNESCO/IUCN Mission to Waterton-Glacier

At the invitation of the United States and Canada, a UNESCO World Heritage Center - International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) team visited the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park to examine the state of conservation of the joint U.S – Canadian World Heritage site and provide recommendations regarding the requirements for the long-term protection of Waterton-Glacier, in particular from potential external threats in the Flathead River valley. The experts met with a wide variety of stakeholders, including park managers, researchers, representatives of conservation NGOs, the British Columbia government and mining corporations. The team will prepare a report for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its next session in Brazil in July 2010. For more information, contact Steve Morris at Stephen_Morris@nps.gov



IUCN World Heritage Centre staff during a visit to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park to assess its state of conservation

NPS-China Action Plan Signed

During a break in the sessions of the 33rd meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Seville, Spain, the acting Director of the NPS met with his Chinese counterpart to sign a new Action Plan for the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding that was first established in 1998. The action plan guides cooperative efforts in 2009-2010 on a variety of national park management issues, including the creation of sister park relationships, natural resource workshops, monitoring and control of park resources through an Assets Management program, study tours and staff exchanges. Both parties pledge to continue consultation and provide advice in the review and nomination of World Heritage Site applications and to work together in support of technical assistance projects conducted under the auspices of various multilateral development and non-governmental agencies that seek the natural and cultural heritage conservation skills of our two agencies. For more details, contact Rudy D'Alessandro at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov



NPS Acting Director Dan Wenk signs Action Plan with his Chinese counterpart, Li Rusheng

World Heritage Karst Sites Become Sister Parks

World Heritage Sites that protect karst resources in China and the U.S. have established a sister park relationship to share lessons learned, thanks to local universities and USAID. **Mammoth Cave National Park** (U.S.) and the three protected areas that comprise the **South China Karst World Heritage Site** – Shilin Stone Forest, Libo Zhangjiang & Wulong geoparks – are partnering with Western Kentucky University and Sichuan University to broaden ongoing efforts to share research and analysis of groundwater karst resources and support exchange activities between the sister park partners. For more information, contact Rick Toomey, at rick_toomey@wku.edu



Mammoth Cave National Park Superintendent Pat Reed with Shilin Stone Forest Director Li during a site visit before attending a sister park signing in Beijing.

“Leading Strategic Change” Course To Be Offered to Park Managers

Yosemite National Park, along with the University of California-Merced and the Institute at the Golden Gate, has developed a pilot course aimed at park and protected area managers around the world focused on leading their agencies and protected areas through an increasingly complex world in which our parks face a range of issues and threats barely imaginable 30 years ago. These issues - from climate change to habitat loss - are better addressed through strategic anticipatory approaches rather than reacting to issues as they arise. With instructors from the NPS, the Stanford Business School, UC-Merced and elsewhere, participants will gain by interacting with fellow park managers from around the globe. The course will take place April 27-May 7, 2010. The application deadline is November 1, 2009. Scholarships are available. For more information, see <http://parkleadership.ucmerced.edu>



Future participants in the Leading Strategic Change course will be able to take advantage of Yosemite's many resources.

Norwegians Participate in Civil War Remembrance

The Norwegian Embassy military attaché to the U.S. spoke at **Andersonville National Historic Park** over the Memorial Day Weekend about Norwegians imprisoned at Camp Sumter during the American Civil War, and also participated in a short ceremony at the Wisconsin Monument in the Prison Site for descendants of those Norwegian soldiers who were held at Andersonville. Norwegian author Torbjorn Greipstrand was the person who initiated all this thanks to his book about Union Soldiers of Norwegian descent that were POWs in the CW. Small Norwegian flags were placed on the graves of those of Norwegian descent who are buried at Andersonville National Cemetery. Colonel Hojem presented a wreath at the Memorial Day program on behalf of the people of Norway. For more information, contact Fred Boyles, at fred_boyles@nps.gov or see <http://blog.norway.com/tag/bj%C3%B8rn-aslakson/>



Miscellaneous News

- **Los Glaciares National Park**, Argentina, rangers spent several weeks at **Grand Teton National Park** for training in trail design, trail building and maintenance. The two parks are developing a sister park partnership focused on shared management issues and challenges. Grand Teton staff will travel to Argentina in 2010 to continue to develop this mutually beneficial relationship.



- **NPS** has established a blog on "World Heritage Matters" on its website - with links to news articles about World Heritage sites in the U.S. and around the world. We invite you to check it out and feel free to leave comments or suggest other links and articles for inclusion on the blog. For more information, visit <http://worldheritagematters.blogspot.com/>

- **Olympic National Park** hosted Fellows from the World Forest Institute (WFI), which brings forestry professionals from around the world to work at WFI for 6-12 months. The WFI Fellowship promotes better understanding of forestry issues in the Pacific Northwest. WFI fellows from Australia, Bosnia, Brazil, China, Germany, and Taiwan visited the soon-to-be-removed dams on the Elwha River and the Hoh Rain Forest. For more information, contact Jerry Freilich, at jerry_freilich@nps.gov



- **World Monuments Fund** has issued the 2010 World Monuments Watch list, focusing global attention on cultural heritage sites facing dangers that illuminate current issues in the field of heritage preservation. NPS is presently aiding **Taos Pueblo**, which was included on the Watch List, to answer many of the concerns the WMF has raised regarding threats to the integrity of the site. For more information, contact Dave Ruppert at david_ruppert@nps.gov or see <http://www.wmf.org/project/taos-pueblo>



- A delegation of Japanese bear management specialists from Hokkaido visited **Katmai National Park** in Alaska in reciprocation of a visit Katmai staff made to Japan's Shiretoko National Park in 2008 to attend an international bear management forum. The visit continued a dialogue begun at Shiretoko on visitor/bear management and allowed Japanese colleagues an opportunity to discuss issues with NPS biologists and managers at Katmai and other NPS units in Alaska. For more information, contact Ralph Moore at ralph_moore@nps.gov

