

U.S. National Park Service International Programs Quarterly Bulletin

October – December 2006

Welcome to the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) International Programs Quarterly Bulletin, 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>

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Spain Loans Shipwreck Artifacts to Assateague Island

Thanks to a loan agreement signed between Spain's Director General of Fine Arts and Cultural Heritage and the NPS, artifacts from two Spanish shipwrecks found within park boundaries – including several rare coins – are now being protected by the NPS in a vault at **Assateague Island** National Seashore. These artifacts, which include two anchors, were part of a lengthy legal battle over shipwrecks, salvage rights and national sovereignty. Spain has a large number of underwater cultural sites around the world. Spain's Director General noted the precedence of this case on questions of sovereignty over shipwrecks around the world, since it is the first site where the question was settled in a court of law. Assateague plans to display these artifacts at a new Visitor Center being built. For more information, contact Carl Zimmerman, at carl_zimmerman@nps.gov

Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP Establishes Sister Park Relationship with Cambodia's Samlaut Protected Area

During the course of Autumn 2006, **Sequoia-Kings Canyon** National Park (SEKI) established the first US-Cambodian sister park relationship, with **Samlaut Protected Area**, in an accord that will allow the two parks to share lessons learned and address common issues such as illegal use of resources within park boundaries. Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Environment Minister joined with U.S. Ambassador Joseph Mussomeli and park staff for a formal signing ceremony at Samlaut in December 2006. Key support for creation of this sister park relationship also comes from the **Maddox-Jolie Pitt Program** (MJPP), which has been active in promoting community development projects in the areas around Samlaut. The first joint sister park activity planned will entail three Cambodian park rangers undertaking shadow assignments at SEKI in March-April 2007. For more information, contact Holly Bundock, NPS Pacific West Region, at holly_bundock@nps.gov.

Yosemite NP Establishes Sister Park Relationship with China's Jiuzhaigou

Building upon previous NPS relationships forged in the 1980's as well as a more recent relationship between the University of California System, **Yosemite** National Park has established a sister park relationship with China's **Jiuzhaigou National Park**. Both parks are **World Heritage Sites** and share many common management and geologic features, as well as the challenges of visitor management and resource protection. A series of staff exchanges are planned to share lessons learned over the next two years. For more information, contact Niki Nicholson, at niki_nicholas@nps.gov

Foreign Park Officials visit NPS

Under the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), ten Uzbek officials managing Uzbekistan's national protected areas were able to visit and learn about the U.S. national park system. The program also introduced the Uzbeki's to international standards for economically sound and sustainable management of protected areas. For information on the group's visit to **Great Sand Dunes** National Park, visit <http://www.almosaneews.com/main.php?page=39>. For more information, contact Linda Bennett, at Linda_bennett@nps.gov.

Ian Rushworth, an environmental program officer from South Africa's **KwaZulu Natal Parks** agency, traveled to the U.S. through a study tour funded by his government, to learn about the NPS natural sounds and overflight programs. During early October, he met with staff from the NPS Overflight Program Office in Fort Collins, and then traveled to **Rocky Mountain** National Park and **Grand Canyon** National Park to learn about these projects in meetings with park staff. Upon his return to South Africa, he will be responsible for writing overflight program guidelines for **uKhahlamba Drakensburg** Park, a **World Heritage Site**. For more information, contact David Krewson, at david_krewson@nps.gov

International Technical Assistance & Exchange

Canada –NPS law enforcement officials attended the Project North Star Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. **Project North Star** is an information/intelligence sharing group dealing with issues specific to the international border between the U.S. and Canada, comprised of law enforcement officers from a multitude of agencies represented by both countries. Topics discussed included drug trafficking, undocumented alien trafficking, and international terrorism. During the conference NPS received and exchanged information with Canadian and American law enforcement authorities regarding current cross border investigations that directly affect the National Park Service and other Department of the Interior lands. For more information, contact Glen Melville, at glen_melville@nps.gov

Canada –NPS is participating in the development of Parks Canada's Recreational Activities Assessment Framework. This innovative and exciting new product promises to be of value to Park Superintendents and recreation stakeholders in determining the appropriate spectrum of recreational opportunities to be made available in a given park. NPS is likely to look to Parks Canada's experience in developing its own tool. For more information, contact Rick Potts at Rick_Potts@nps.gov

Chile –With funding support from the U.S. Department of State and the diplomatic support of the Chilean Foreign Ministry, NPS participated with U.S. Forest Service staff in a workshop on environmental interpretation presented for the Corporacion Nacional Forestal (CONAF), Chile's National Forest and Park Corporation. The workshop was held at Puyehue National Park, Chile, as part of the Patagonia Project, which has been incorporated under the biannual workplan of the Chile-U.S. Environmental Cooperation Agreement. The Patagonia Project provides training opportunities and creates partnerships between volunteers, park managers, local communities, non-governmental organizations, universities, and business in support of bilateral cooperation for ecotourism development between Chile and the US. For more information, contact Jon Putnam, at jonathan_putnam@nps.gov

Italy – At the invitation of the University of Sassari School of Economics and Sardinian government sponsors, NPS participated in a workshop on the potential for eco-tourism development for the Sardinia Region. The workshop facilitated an exchange of ideas and discussion between U.S. and Italian scholars and practitioners in various fields of eco-tourism. Additionally, placements in national parks of two Italian graduate students studying eco-tourism is currently being explored for Spring 2007. NPS staff also met in Rome with the Director General of the Italian Nature Conservation Service, to discuss the status of the Italy-NPS cooperative agreement and learn about Italy's newly developed methodology for mapping environmental sensitivity to oil spills. For more information, contact John Debo, at john_debo@nps.gov

Mexico – A ranger from **Bandelier** National Monument attended an International Hands-on Workshop for Architectural and Site Conservation in Santa Isabel. The goal for participants was to understand the context of adobe structures and learn techniques for preservation and conservation of these structures. The ranger returned with a wide expanse of new techniques and skills for adobe preservation and conservation applicable to many of the adobe structures found in NPS units in the arid southwest. For more details, contact Victoria Iverson, at tori_iverson@nps.gov

Montenegro – Responding to a request from the U.S. Embassy in Podgorica, NPS and a California-based NGO, American River Communities (ARC), reprised their 2005 assistance efforts in Slovakia for the newly independent Montenegro. The NPS and ARC representatives provided a program focused on facilitating discussions regarding sustainable development practices in regions contiguous to protected areas and national parks. Working through a local NGO partner, Montenegro Business Alliance, the U.S. Embassy arranged discussions with a variety of governmental agencies, private citizens, environmental and conservation NGO's and business owners that were based on the premise that natural and cultural resource conservation should be a critical part of Montenegro's future economic development strategy. NPS and ARC also traveled to and spent time with the directors of Durmitor, Biogradske Gora, and Skadar Lake national parks, as well as with Montenegro's National Parks Director Rade Gregovic. For more information, contact Paul Labovitz, at paul_labovitz@nps.gov

Sondrio Environmental Film Festival – The National Park Service’s extensive experience with in-house production of national park visitor center films engendered an invitation to serve as a member of the Commune di Sondrio Environmental Film Festival jury, a five-person team that reviews and awards environmental education filmmakers for outstanding new documentaries on “protected” lands. The jury also includes a manager from Italy’s Stelvio National Park, film industry professionals, and a parks conservation advocate. The Sondrio Commune reimbursed all travel costs for the NPS representative, who participated in the film jury voting, assisted with environmental education programs for Italian classrooms and established contacts with filmmakers who may ultimately create films for the NPS. For more information, contact David Barna, at david_barna@nps.gov.

Korean National Park Service cooperation with NPS

Working with the South Korean National Park Service (KNPS), NPS-OIA arranged for five KNPS staff to work at U.S. national parks. KNPS staff from **Deogyusan** National Park, **Naejangsan** National Park, and **Seoraksan** National Park undertook training programs at **Valley Forge** National Historic Site, **Fossil Butte** National Monument, **Hawaii Volcanoes** National Park and **Big Thicket** National Preserve. The Korean rangers’ hands-on training included: how NPS manages visitor services and interprets historical resources; land reclamation, wildlife, wildfire and invasive species management; GIS and digital mapping for trail management’ natural resource studies and reforestation projects; and interpretive planning. Big Thicket benefited by the timely arrival of two KNPS rangers during a major flood, who proved valuable assets to the park staff by stepping in to work on fire effects monitoring projects, helping with surveying work which the park’s seasonal crew had not finished and enabling Big Thicket to meet some of their fire management goals for the season. OIA hopes to continue NPS’s professional and cultural exchange with KNPS in the near future. For more information, contact Linda Bennett, at Linda_bennett@nps.gov

U.S. World Heritage Tentative List

Staff of the U.S. National Park Service’s Office of International Affairs broadcasted an interactive workshop for NPS and other federal agency representatives via the NPS’s TEL (Technology Enhanced Learning) system on the procedures for submitting applications for consideration to the U.S. World Heritage Tentative List. As a reminder, applications of candidate sites wishing to be considered for the U.S. Tentative List will be accepted until April 1, 2007. Questions and answers, plus the application form, are available online at <http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/tentativelist.htm>. For further information, contact Steve Morris at stephen_morris@nps.gov

*This newsletter is distributed quarterly to NPS staff, partners and other interested parties. If you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please contact Rudy D’Alessandro at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov. **OIA encourages NPS colleagues to submit brief summaries of international activities and accomplishments suitable for inclusion in this bulletin.***

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