

U.S. National Park Service

International Programs Quarterly Bulletin



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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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New U.S. World Heritage Tentative List Announced

After a long process that included public feedback and expert review, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced the selection of 14 U.S. sites to be included on a new United States World Heritage Tentative List. The properties on the new list will now be eligible to be considered for nomination by the United States to the UNESCO World Heritage List, which recognizes the world's most significant cultural and natural treasures. Among the new sites on the list are

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in Hawaii (*at right*), **Okefenokee** National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia, ten **Frank Lloyd Wright** buildings found across the U.S. and **Civil Rights Movement** sites in Alabama. Neither inclusion in the Tentative List nor inscription as a World Heritage Site imposes legal restrictions on owners or neighbors of sites, nor does it give the United Nations any management authority or ownership rights in U.S. World Heritage Sites, which continue to be subject to U.S. law. For more information, visit http://www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/New_Tentative_List.htm



Mongolia-NPS Cooperation

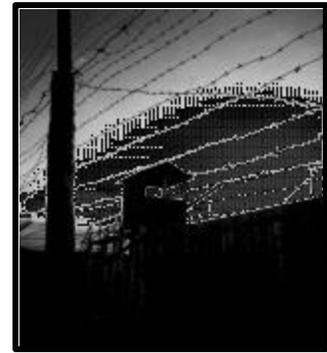
During an official visit to the U.S. by Mongolian President & Mrs. Enkhbayar, the National Park Service engaged in high level discussions on cooperation in parks management between the two countries. NPS Director Bomar met and briefed the Mongolian First Lady (*right*) in Washington, DC, while NPS Alaska Regional Director Blaszak and **Denali National Park** staff hosted President Enkhbayar's delegation in Anchorage. A letter of intent was signed to consider establishing a sister park relationship between Denali and a geographically similar park in Mongolia. This follows the

creation of a sister park relationship in 2006 between **Glacier National Park** with Mongolia's **Khan-Khentii** and parallels ongoing cooperation between Alaska's National Guard and the Mongolian Defense Ministry. For more information, contact Rudy D'Alessandro, at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov.



Martin Luther King NHS hosts Russian Gulag Exhibit

Martin Luther King National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia, working with Amnesty International, the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, the International Coalition of Historic Site Museums of Conscience, and two local universities, is hosting an exhibit on the Russian Gulag. The Gulag exhibition contains four sections focusing on Stalin's Gulag, Dissidents, After the Soviet Union and the Gulag Museum, and runs through February 20, 2008. A panel of human rights leaders was convened to discuss the Soviet Gulag system and parallels to other prison systems and the American Civil Rights Movement, as well as human rights injustices occurring globally today. For more information, contact Mari Hayden, at mari_hayden@nps.gov or visit <http://www.nps.gov/malu/parknews/index.htm>



Strategic Planning Workshop for Jordanian Rangers

Rangers from the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. National Park Service, along with a representative from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, traveled to Jordan to participate in a workshop with Jordanian rangers and staff of the Jordanian Environment Ministry. The Ministry had recently been tasked with developing a program of protection, conservation and care of the environment throughout Jordan. During the workshop, a Strategic Plan was developed; highlights included a Vision of the Rangers, Core Values and five Strategic Priorities for the next three years. An issue identified early on was that the rangers and the Ministry have a very wide mandate. Everything from checking vehicle emissions to food inspection to wildlife protection falls within their scope of work. The Ministry and the rangers came to a preliminary agreement that two branches were needed to divide the work into manageable segments and allow for specific targeted training to gain competencies in technical skills. For more information, contact Dan Pontbriand, at dan_pontbriand@nps.gov.



Yunnan Officials Visit Albright Training Center

The Nature Conservancy's China program arranged for officials from China's Yunnan province to undertake a study tour to the U.S. TNC's goal is to introduce international experiences and expertise in managing national parks in an effort to help governments at provincial and local levels in China to improve management of their parks and protected areas. Working with NPS's Office of International Affairs, staff of the **Albright Training Center** at **Grand Canyon National Park** provided an opportunity for the Yunnan officials to participate in a scaled-down version of the NPS Fundamentals Curriculum (<http://www.nps.gov/training/>), over the course of two days. Discussions are underway for English-speaking Chinese staff to return to participate in the two-week long Fundamentals course held at Albright. For more information, contact TNC-China's Jerry Chen, at jerrychen@tnc.org.cn



Galapagos Institute Gap Analysis

At the request of the Charles Darwin Foundation, NPS recruited a former superintendent to participate in a workshop in the Galapagos Islands, entitled "The Galapagos Institute: A Global Centre of Excellence for Vocational Training." Participants came from Ireland's Dublin University and Tanzania's College of African Wildlife Management. Juan Flaim of Lindblad Expeditions and Randal Keynes, Darwin's great-grandson, plus 30 representatives from the communities on Santa Cruz Island and the Galapagos Province also attended the workshop, which was designed to bring experienced global educators and trainers to work with community leaders to develop a foundation document that sets forth vision, mission, purpose and goals for the proposed Galapagos Institute. Participants developed a preliminary business plan for the Institute, with the goal of how the proposed Institute might fill voids in skills training as well as suggest an appropriate and achievable scope. For more information, contact Doug Morris, at dougmorris99@aol.com



Japan-U.S. Interpreter Training Seminar

Japanese park interpretation rangers participated in the 13th annual Japan-U.S. Interpreter Training Seminar, held at NPS headquarters in Washington, DC and **Assateague Island National Seashore**. Jointly organized by NPS and the Association for Interpretation-Japan, the seminar was supported by staff from the NPS Albright Training Center, the NPS Cultural Resources Division and Assateague'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 - "Historical Interpretation and Interpretive Planning." Sessions focused on techniques of historical interpretation an overview of interpretive planning, use of signage in interpretation, and new ways of presenting historical materials via the internet. For more information, contact Rudy D'Alessandro, at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov.



Korean NPS Undertakes U.S. Study Tour

Officials from the **Korean National Park Service (KNPS)** and the **Korean Ministry of Environment** completed a study tour of U.S. national park units, building on the experiences derived by Korean park rangers who had participated in the NPS's International Volunteers-in-Parks (IVIP) program. The purpose of the tour was to study U.S. park management policies especially with regards to resolving conflicts with local communities, business management planning and financial management. KNPS officials included their Planning, Operations and Budget chiefs, while the Korean Environment Ministry officials came from both the budget and natural resources divisions. The group visited **Cape Hatteras National Seashore** and **Shenandoah National Park**, meeting with and being briefed by various park officials, as well as headquarters staff in Washington, DC. For more information, contact Rudy D'Alessandro, at rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov.



Nepalese Volunteer Assists Hawaii Volcanoes

A forest researcher for a Nepalese environmental non-profit organization, Dilip Bhandari, completed a volunteer program in ecosystem restoration at **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**. The park has trained 6-8 international volunteers annually since 1998. Park staff, who taught monitoring and propagation techniques to restore native Hawaiian trees and plants, appreciate the passion that international volunteers bring to field projects. Dilip is eager to adapt the methods he learned with his forestry co-workers in Nepal. NPS has given scores of international volunteers tools to better protect natural resources in their national parks and protected areas. Last fiscal year, NPS trained over **100** international volunteers and works hard to place conservationists from developing countries in U.S. national parks. The International Volunteers-in-Parks Program receives no funding; thus, it is a cost-effective way of fulfilling the NPS domestic and international mission and making a difference in the lives of individuals like Dilip. For more information, contact Linda Bennett, at Linda_bennett@nps.gov.



George Washington Birthplace Creates Sister Park Relationship

England's **Sulgrave Manor** and **George Washington Birthplace National Monument**, representing a link between the family of George Washington in England and in Virginia, have established a sister park relationship. Sulgrave Manor has a compelling pre-colonial history that provides a rich historic framework for the Washington family, is held in trust for the peoples of the United States and the United Kingdom and symbolizes "friendship and goodwill between the British and American peoples." Mutual goals include encouraging interest and fostering education about history, creating corridors and connections between the people interested in the two sites, and implementing research. The two sites seek to understand each other's history and significance so that a complete story about the Washington family can be understood and shared with the visiting public. For more information, contact Vidal Martinez, at vidal_martinez@nps.gov



Park Hosts Guatemalan Deputy Parks Director

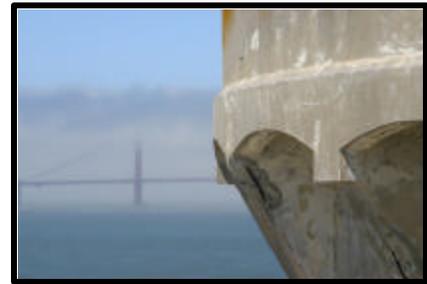
Big Cypress National Preserve recently hosted a visit by Guatemalan National Park Service (CONAP) officials. The purpose of the trip was to familiarize CONAP officials with the NPS and Big Cypress. The Guatemalan delegation included Roy Bennett, CONAP Deputy Director, CONAP Comptroller Nery Ruano, Regional Park Supervisors Sergio Guzman and Antonio Fion, CONAP Financial Manager (*seen at right*). They had the opportunity to also visit **Biscayne** and **Everglades National Parks** during their week long stay in South Florida. Acting NPS Southeast Regional Director, Paul Anderson, joined Big Cypress



in welcoming their colleagues and participated in discussions regarding an action plan for 2008 and the future of the sister park relationship between Big Cypress and Guatemala's **Laguna Del Tigre National Park**. For more information, contact Pedro Ramos, at pedro_ramos@nps.gov

European Protected Areas Students Tour U.S.

Under the auspices of the IUCN-WCPA European Training Task Force and the Europarc Federation, a group of 20 graduate students, professors and Italian parks officials concluded a Masters Degree program in "Protected Areas Governance" with an educational study tour of U.S. protected area sites administered by the NPS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sharing lessons learned with colleagues at **Golden Gate National Recreation Area** and NOAA national marine sanctuaries in California, the group focused on issues of visitor management, protected areas in an urban context, marine protected area management and interpretation of historic and natural sites. For more information, contact Maurilio Cipparone, at maucip@parks.it



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.

We encourage NPS colleagues to submit brief summaries of international activities and accomplishments suitable for inclusion in this bulletin.