



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



March 2005 Archeology E-Gram

“The Antiquities Act on the Eve of its Centennial”

Dr. Francis P. McManamon chaired a panel discussion about the Antiquities Act, on March 17, 2005, during the George Wright Society meetings in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Richard Sellars, NPS Historian, and Mr. Vincent Santucci, Chief Ranger, George Washington Memorial Parkway were the panelists. Discussion focused on two main themes. The first theme dealt with the history of the term “objects of antiquity,” and how the protection of “antiquities” related to the preservation of other kinds of historic, scientific, or scenic objects. The second theme addressed how very large national monuments were established under the Antiquities Act. McManamon announced and distributed Director Mainella’s memo encouraging commemoration of the centennial. Superintendent Lisa Eckert of Devils Tower NM, the first National Monument established using the Antiquities Act, summarized the activities being planned by NPS units established in 1906, either under the Antiquities Act or as National Parks. All participants agreed that using the centennial of the Antiquities Act to promote conservation, preservation, and interpretation is a worthwhile goal.

Antiquities Act website launched

The Archeology Program has created the Antiquities Act website as part of the centennial commemoration of the Antiquities Act of 1906 (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/aad/sites/antiquities/index.htm>). The website discusses the significance of the Act, accomplishments for archeology and the American public, and continuing efforts to protect archeological heritage. The site also includes an interactive map of national monuments and a calendar of events related to the centennial.

John L. Cotter Award for NPS Park Archeology Excellence for 2005

This year’s Cotter Award goes to the “Archeological Identification and Evaluation Study of the Best Farm,” Monocacy National Battlefield, Maryland, directed by Ms. Joy Beasley, Park Cultural Resources Program Manager. The 4-year multidisciplinary project was conducted under a cooperative agreement between Monocacy National Battlefield and the Center for Heritage Studies, University of Maryland. The project, under Ms. Beasley’s direction, has had a major impact on the resource assessment and interpretation of Monocacy National Battlefield and exemplifies the qualities of leadership and excellence that the Cotter Award was designed to recognize.

The annual Cotter Award recognizes the late Dr. John L. Cotter for his contributions in the development and professionalism for NPS park archeology programs. In 1999, the National Park Service archeological community established this unofficial recognition of an outstanding, exemplary park project and its principal investigator to acknowledge contributions to professional archeology within the National Park System and to inspire employees and others to continue Dr. Cotter’s model of leadership and excellence.

Jim Thomson retires

Jim Thomson retired as the Regional Archeologist in the Pacific Northwest Region office in Seattle, Washington, at the end of 2004. Jim has been a dedicated and productive employee of the National Park Service since 1974. His NPS career began at Fort Moultrie where he worked as a WG-1 laborer, assisting in excavations. During his service he worked as a temporary for SEAC, joined the Interagency Archeological Services in the Atlanta office, and oversaw projects in Barrow while working for the

Alaska HCRS-IAS office, and finally in the Pacific Northwest Region office in Seattle, Washington, in 1982, where he remained until his retirement. Part of his achievement in Seattle was working with park managers to establish a substantial cadre of park-based archeologists. Jim continues to assist the archeology program in the Pacific West Region's Seattle office as a volunteer. We are grateful to continue to have Jim's experience and insights available. We wish him a very happy retirement.

Of interest beyond the Archeology Program:

Florida Shipwrecks: 300 Years of Maritime History

The National Register of Historic Places has launched their latest travel itinerary – Florida Shipwrecks: 300 Years of Maritime History – in commemoration of Florida's observance of Archeology Month. This itinerary is currently the main feature on their homepage [www.cr.nps.gov/nr] and highlights 13 historic shipwrecks listed in the National Register of Historic Places that are accessible to divers.

Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and El Salvador

The State Department announced the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (bilateral agreement) between the U.S. and El Salvador, restricting the import into the U.S. of illegally exported Salvadoran archeological material, until March 2010. There are some new stipulations in the Memorandum of Understanding, including the requirement that El Salvador publish a process by which foreign archeologists can apply to conduct field research. More information on the State Department's website at <http://exchanges.state.gov/culprop/>.

Early Cities: New Perspectives on Pre-Industrial Urbanism

The National Academy of Sciences will hold an Arthur M. Sackler colloquium on Early Cities: New Perspectives on Pre-Industrial Urbanism on May 18-20, 2005. Ten archeological case studies will be discussed by a group of distinguished scholars from fields such as geography, economics, urban planning, architecture, and environmental psychology. To facilitate the participation of younger anthropologists and social scientists, a number of travel grants will be available for graduate students and postdocs to help subsidize their travel to the conference. For more information or to register for the colloquium, please go to www.nas.edu/sackler/earlycities or email sackler@nas.edu.

Archeology E-Gram, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the National Park Service and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists and new subscribers are accepted. Contact Martha Graham, Archeology Program, NPS, at (202) 354-2110, martha_graham@nps.gov.