



## Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### September 2007, Archeology E-Gram

#### **NPS Archeologist Wins Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award**

In a ceremony in August in Washington D.C., Bob Mierendorf, Johnnie Powell, and Alexa Roberts received 2006 Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Excellence in Cultural Resources Stewardship and Management. “Each of these 2006 award winners, these shining stars of the NPS, inspires all of us to follow their example,” said NPS Director Mary A. Bomar.

Bob Mierendorf, archeologist at North Cascades NP for the past 20 years, most recently as Park Archeologist, received the award for Cultural Resources Management. Mierendorf directed excavation of a high altitude site in the park and made several significant discoveries in his on-going work to promote excellence in high-mountain archeology. Nearly 9,000 years of human history are revealed at the site – the first documented well-stratified archeological site of its kind in the sub-alpine environment of the northern Cascades range of Washington and British Columbia. Mierendorf’s work at Cascade Pass is significant not just for creating a greater depth of understanding of high-mountain archeology but for re-defining regional perceptions of human history.

The award for Cultural Resource Stewardship through Maintenance was presented to Johnnie Powell, supervisor of the Historic Preservation Crew at Denali NP&P, which perform stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration on the park’s historic structures. Powell’s projects have ranged from replacing sill logs to rehabilitating roof systems using specialized treatments in order to match the original construction. He continually explores better methods for addressing issues like accessibility, ventilation, infiltration, thermal performance, and condensation.

The award for Cultural Resource Stewardship by Superintendents was presented to Alexa Roberts, Superintendent at Sand Creek Massacre NHS where she has been involved with the site from inception through establishment and dedication. In 2006, Roberts led three major efforts related to the park’s establishment and management of cultural resources at Sand Creek. She nurtured relationships and coordinated partner involvement towards the 2007 public opening and dedication, planned for post-establishment public use, and, successfully negotiated the transfer of Tribal lands. Her leadership includes arranging for eight CESU resource studies (including a National Register Determination, an ethnobotanical study, and a tribal cultural resources research project) and on-going work with tribes and neighbors on pressing issues, including fire management.

The Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Management was established in 1970. It is named for three well-respected, longtime National Park Service employees: historian Roy E. Appleman, historical architect Henry A. Judd, and curator Ralph H. Lewis.

#### **President’s House Dig Temporarily Closed**

In August, Independence NHP and the City of Philadelphia temporarily covered the President’s House archeological site in order to protect the 18th and 19th century architectural findings from further deterioration. More than 250,000 visitors have visited the public viewing platform to witness the excavations at this extraordinary place.

A closing event hosted by the team of archeologists who had worked on the excavation was held on July 31st. The ceremonial event included comments from acting superintendent Darla Sidles, officials with the City of Philadelphia, and the team of archeologists who were responsible for the dig that has caught the nation's attention over the past four months. The ceremony also recognized and honored the nine enslaved Africans, Hercules, Oney Judge, Paris, Richmond, Austin, Moll, Joe, Giles, and Christopher Sheels, who worked for President Washington. Ayoka Quinones, a Yoruba priestess, and Mukasa Afrika led the ceremonial elements of the event.

In light of the archeological discoveries and at the request of the mayor of Philadelphia, a task force was assembled in June 2007 to evaluate options for incorporating the archeological findings into the preliminary design plan that was prepared by the Kelly/Maiello team before the dig began. After further research, a final report with recommendations will be prepared. The site will remain covered until incorporated into a permanent installation commemorating the President's House.

For more information about the President's Site excavations, go to <http://www.nps.gov/inde/parkmgmt/publicinvolvement.htm>

### **Federal Archeology Program Web pages Updated**

The NPS Archeology Program has added numerical data for FY2004-2005 to the Secretary's Report to Congress (SRC) web pages on the Archeology Program web site. These data consist of the compilation of numerical responses to the questionnaire on the Federal Archeology Program that is administered annually by the NPS. The SRC web pages now provide access to 30 years of numerical data and reports about the Federal Archeology Program, from 1985 to 2005.

To access these resources about the Federal Archeology Program, go to <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/SRC/INDEX.HTM>

### **NPS SEAC Has History**

The NPS Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) has announced the availability of an administrative history of SEAC, *Science, Politics, and the "Big Dig,"* by Cameron Binkley. The history traces SEAC from its beginnings in excavations at the McDougal mound, Ocmulgee NM, GA, through the years of association with Florida State University, to the present.

More broadly, Binkley traces the role of archeology in cultural resource management and its relationship with historic preservation. The study reveals how NPS archeology developed along lines distinctive from other cultural resource professions and effectively highlights the critical role that Federal archeology has played in preserving the cultural heritage of the Southeast. This case study of the growth and survival of a regional archeology program within a Federal agency will be of interest to historians, preservationists, and political scientists, as well as archeologists. The book is solidly rooted in the history of the NPS and the broader national trends in the field of archeology. The inclusion of historical context and the level of analysis and commentary ensure that this history will have a broad appeal and usefulness both within and outside of the NPS.

To learn more about SEAC, go to <http://www.nps.gov/history/seac/>.

### **New Museum at Gettysburg To Open in Spring**

Construction is underway on a new museum/visitor center at Gettysburg NMP. This 139,000-square-foot facility will contain a visitor center, a 24,000-square-foot museum of Gettysburg during the Civil War, a gallery to display the restored Gettysburg Cyclorama painting, curatorial space, office space, a refreshment saloon, and a book and museum store. When completed, the museum will consist of more than a dozen rooms and more than nine interactive exhibits.

The new center will also include a place for visitors to check historical records through a computer system and a collections storage area that will allow researchers better access to the park's archeological objects and documents. Outside the museum, a special-exhibits area will host temporary displays of artifacts from other national parks or even private collections, and an open-storage area will house artifacts not currently on display.

The new museum and visitor center will open to the public in April, but grand opening events will not take place until September, 2008.

The \$103 million project is being paid for by the nonprofit Gettysburg Foundation. Funds are being raised by the foundation, which will also operate the facility on behalf of the NPS. For more information about the Gettysburg Foundation "Campaign to Preserve Gettysburg" go to [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org).

### **NPS Selects Archeologist for Cultural Resources Position**

The NPS has announced the selection of Daniel Odess as Assistant Associate Director, Park Cultural Resources Programs. Odess was Curator of Archaeology at the University of Alaska Museum and taught in the Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. In these positions, he served as department head and curator of more than 850,000 objects. He supervised the museum's collections management, staff and students, and established and maintained relationships between the museum and tribal and governmental agencies. Odess has held grants for archeological research from the NPS and NSF, as well as funding through cooperative agreements with the FWS and BLM.

Odess began his career as an archeological crew member on the Saint John Island Project in Newfoundland, Canada. Subsequent positions included museum studies instructor, Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Brown University; NAGPRA consultant, Milwaukee Public Museum; and post-doctoral research archeologist, Arctic Studies Center, National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian Institution). He is co-editor of *Honoring Our Elders: A History of Eastern Arctic Archaeology* and author of numerous articles on archeology of Alaska and the Arctic region. Odess holds a Ph.D. degree in anthropology from Brown University.

Odess will coordinate NPS Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes, Park History, Park Museum Management, Archeology, and Park Ethnography programs. He will begin his new position on October 29, 2007.

### **Archeological Resources in "Teaching with Historic Places"**

Teaching with Historic Places (TwHP) ([www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/)), now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, is a well-established history resource that offers more than 130 curriculum-based lesson plans about historic places on the National Register of Historic Places. These lesson plans use historic sites to explore American history. Aimed at middle school students, the lesson plans can be adapted both for older and younger grades and link to the national Curriculum Standards for History for Grades 5-12, and Social Studies standards for middle school. The lesson plans focus on historic places - as tangible links to the past and as sources of evidence - to help teach academic subjects, raise awareness of available information about places, and foster an appreciation for the value of cultural resources.

Less well-known, however, is the fact that ten of the lesson plans have an archeological focus. The archeology lesson plans are an eclectic mix of historic themes and time periods that include transportation (King of Prussia Inn, PA); mining (Johnson Lake Mine, NV); settlement (Frederica, GA); and ironworking (Saugus, MA). There are also lesson plans about a pre-Civil War interracial town (New Philadelphia, IL); and Native American settlements (Gran Quivera, NM, and Knife River, ND). The lesson plans are an excellent way to introduce students to archeological concepts and the unique

information and perspectives that archeology can provide. To obtain a list of lesson plans with an archeological focus choose "Archeology" on the Lesson Plan Index: Theme page <<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/descrip.htm>> of TwHP.

The program will soon launch the first lesson plan in Spanish, *The Spanish Treasure Fleets of 1715 and 1733: Disasters Strike at Sea*.

To learn more about Teaching with Historic Places, visit the website at <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp>. More information about Teaching with Historic Places is available in "History in the Hands of Tomorrow's Citizens," by Carol Shull and Beth Boland at <http://crm.cr.nps.gov/archive/23-08/23-08-1.pdf>. The article was published in the *Cultural Resource Management* issue *Creative Teaching with Historic Places* (CRM Vol. 23, No. 8, 2000). Another useful article is "Teaching with Historic Places Looks Back, Looks Forward," (*Forum Journal*, vol. 9, no. 1, Fall 2004).

(This news item is part of a series on archeological resources in the NPS. See the June issue for archeological resources on the History Program website, and the July issue for archeological resources in HABS/HAER/HALS.)

#### **New Finding Aid for NPS at National Archives**

The NPS Park History Program has revised the finding aid for the records of the NPS (Record Group 79) at the National Archives at College Park, MD. It contains descriptions of all records in the record group (including textual, cartographic, and electronic records, and still and motion pictures), which collectively represent more than 200 years of history, from 1785 to 2002. This remarkable group of records contains something for everyone interested in the history of the NPS and the National Park System. NPS staff, archivists, historians, and local and family history enthusiasts will all find something of value in this revised finding aid.

Find the link on the Park History Program website: <http://www.nps.gov/history/history/index.htm>

#### **Petroglyph Management & Protection**

Petroglyph NM will host the first Bi-National Workshop on Petroglyph Management and Protection. This exciting workshop will bring together experts from the U.S. and Mexico to discuss development issues and conservation techniques from September 19-21. Three hundred people from federal agencies, state and local governments, tribal areas, and universities are expected to attend. Over 55 national parks have either petroglyphs (carvings) or pictographs (paintings).

For more information, contact Joseph P. Sánchez at (505)899-0205 or (505)346-2890.

#### **FS Unveils Heritage Information Management System**

In a series of briefings in July, the FS National Heritage Program presented the FS Heritage Information Management System. This system uses the FS I-Web database to maintain information about archeological sites, projects, and project costs nation-wide. Ready access to archeological information will accelerate NHPA Section 106 review, which constitutes over 90% of the agency cultural heritage compliance needs. Mike Kaczor, FS National Heritage Program Leader, estimates that the data system will improve efficiency in Section 106 review by 30%. He anticipates that the Heritage Information Management System will allow the FS to shift the current focus on cultural resources to emphasize resource management.

The Information Management System replaces regional and local idiosyncratic systems that were in place 10 years ago. The FS began uploading cultural resource records in 2002; the data system currently contains about 222,000 records pertaining to archeological sites, cultural landscapes, and architectural resources. The team anticipates completion of input of existing data, a total of 340,000 records, in 2008.

The FS Information Management System offers a unique system of state-based lists of cultural resource values and site forms, to accommodate specific SHPO needs.

**Contact: Mike Kaczor, FS National Heritage Program Leader, (202) 205-1427**

### **MMS Investigates 200 year old Shipwreck in Gulf of Mexico**

This past summer, archeologists from the DOI Minerals Management Service (MMS) and Texas A&M University's Department of Oceanography and Nautical Archaeology Program investigated a historic shipwreck located in Federal waters 40 miles off the Louisiana coast. The shipwreck site lies in 4,000 feet of water. This record water depth makes it the deepest shipwreck in the world ever to be scientifically excavated for a non-commercial purpose. The shipwreck was discovered along the route of a gas pipeline in what was then the Mardi Gras Gas Transportation System operated by Okeanos Gas Gathering Company (OGGC). The excavation is funded by the OGGC through an agreement with the MMS.

The actual identity of the ship is not yet known; archeologists have dubbed it the "Mardi Gras Shipwreck" after the pipeline where it was found. Using deep sea robots, called Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), scientists viewed the wreck through cameras in depths that are many times deeper than divers can reach and would crush most manned submersibles. The archeologists speculate that the ship was a small merchant vessel or, possibly, a privateer and that it sank sometime between 1780 and 1820. The ship carried a cannon and a wooden chest filled with small arms, such as pistols, muskets, and swords.

"This wreck dates from an extremely fascinating and important time in the history of the Gulf of Mexico," said MMS Acting Regional Director Lars Herbst. "This ship likely sailed around the time of the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, and the infamous buccaneer Jean Lafitte. Its recovery will tell a story about what life at sea was like at that time that cannot be found in the history books."

The excavation relied entirely on a robotic ROV operating from a 265-foot long ship positioned over the site. Both the ship and ROV are under contract with Veolia Environmental Services, the world's second-largest waste services company. The ROV is equipped with special tools to photograph, map, and recover artifacts as fragile as an hourglass, of which at least three have been seen so far on the shipwreck, or as large as the cast-iron ship's stove, one of only four such stoves known to exist in the world. Artifacts recovered from the site will be donated to the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism for display at one of the facilities of the Louisiana State Museum.

A web site, hosted by the Florida Public Archaeology Network, provides regular updates from the expedition team. The public can take part in the discoveries as they are made at sea by visiting <http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/mardigras/>.

### **Draft of ICOMOS Interpretation and Presentation Charter Finished**

The International Scientific Committee of Interpretation and Presentation has completed a final draft of the ICOMOS Charter on Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites, to be presented for ratification at the 16<sup>th</sup> ICOMOS General Assembly in Quebec, Canada, in October. The purpose of the charter, also known as the Ename Charter, is to define the basic principles of interpretation and presentation as essential components of heritage conservation efforts and as a means of enhancing public appreciation and understanding of cultural heritage sites.

The charter, which has been in preparation since 2002, responds to the growth of elaborate heritage 'theme-parks' world-wide. Recognizing that there are many benefits to be derived from this form of engagement with the public, the charter seeks to establish principles upon which interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage should be based. The objectives of the charter are to: 1. facilitate understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage sites; 2. communicate the meaning of cultural heritage

sites to wide range of audiences through careful scholarship and living cultural traditions; 3. protect the tangible and intangible values of the sites; 4. respect and protect the authenticity of cultural heritage sites; 5. contribute to sustainable conservation of sites; 6. encourage inclusiveness in development and implementation of interpretive programs; and 7. develop technical and professional guidelines for cultural heritage interpretation and presentation that are appropriate to specific social contexts.

For more information about the ICOMOS and about this charter go to <http://www.icomos.org/> or <http://www.enamecharter.org/>

### **Project in Parks: Archeological Investigations at Canaveral NS**

Canaveral National Seashore, established in 1975, and located along Florida's eastern coast, is associated with the intrepid spirit of men and women who explored and, in a limited way, colonized outer space from the nearby Kennedy Space Center. It is also associated with another fascinating story of exploration and colonization. In the mid-1500s, both France and Spain simultaneously promoted settlement of the New World, an environment that was almost as unknown at that time as space was in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Both countries sought control over the eastern coast of La Florida, identified by Juan Ponce de Leon 40 years earlier. Recently published archeological investigations at Canaveral NS have uncovered evidence to better understand the conflict between French and Spanish settlers, and the fate of defeated French survivors.

NPS employees who can access the NPS intranet can read the full report by going to **Projects in Parks** <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670> on InsideNPS. Other readers can access the full report through the *News and Links* page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the Archeology Program website.

*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. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the Archeology Program website.

**Contact:** [dca@nps.gov](mailto:dca@nps.gov) to contribute news items, stories for "Projects in Parks," and to subscribe.