



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



March 2009 Archeology E-Gram

Grand Canyon NPs Hosts Archeology Day

On Saturday, March 28, 2009, Grand Canyon National Park hosted Archeology Day as part of Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month. Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month was created 26 years ago by the Arizona SHPO and the Governor's Ad Hoc Archeology Advisory Group (now the Governor's Archeology Advisory Commission) to inform the public about archeology in Arizona. In Grand Canyon NP alone, over 4,300 archeological sites have been recorded to date, and archeologists estimate that the park may have as many as 50,000 – 60,000 sites. Some of the artifacts found in the park date back almost 12,000 years, testimony to the human history of the area. That human history lives on as descendants of these ancient peoples continue to utilize the area today.

Archeology Day, much like Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month, gives park visitors the opportunity to learn more about the people who lived here long ago and to gain a greater understanding of the work that archeologists do and what can be learned from their research. The event included two special speakers: Allyson Mathis, park Science and Education Outreach Coordinator; and Ian Hough, park Archeologist.

Railroad Pays Penalty in ARPA Case

While undertaking flood mitigation repair work on a railway line adjacent to Effigy Mounds NM, Iowa, in 2007, employees of the Iowa, Chicago, and Eastern (IC&E) Railroad deposited rock and soil inside the external boundary of the park. An area of approximately 912 square feet was affected, all of which was part of a known prehistoric and historic archaeological site. As a result of an investigation by NPS staff, it was determined that the strict liability civil penalty provisions of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) offered the most effective legal and resource damage mitigation remedy. Informal discussions between NPS and IC&E staff produced an agreement in which the IC&E agreed to remove the deposited materials from NPS lands under NPS supervision and, in exchange, the NPS agreed to reduce the civil penalty to \$19,809.50, which was equal to the government's restoration and repair costs. The agreed-upon mitigation work was completed in November 2008, and the civil penalty payment was received by the park in February 2009.

(submitted by Bob Palmer)

SHA's Cotter Award for NCPTT Grant Research

Christopher Fennell, University of Illinois, was awarded the Society for Historical Archaeology's (SHA) 2009 John L. Cotter Award at the annual meeting in Toronto, Ontario, January 7-11. Named for a former NPS archeologist, and SHA's first president, the Cotter Award recognizes significant contributions to the discipline of historical archeology. Fennell serves as a Co-Principal Investigator with Paul Shackel, University of Maryland, and Terry Martin, Illinois State Museum, for the New Philadelphia Archaeological Project, which received funding assistance from the NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training Center, as well as other sources. His role in conducting the multi-disciplinary research program was an important factor contributing to Fennell's nomination for this recognition.

(submitted by Vergil Noble)

Archeological Sites Lost as Erosion Doubles along Part of Alaska's Coast

A USGS-led study reveals that coastal erosion has more than doubled along a 40-mile stretch of the Beaufort Sea in Alaska - up to 45 feet per year - in a 5-year period between 2002 and 2007. The average annual erosion rates along this part of the Beaufort Sea climbed from historical levels of about 20 feet per year between the mid-1950s and late-1970s to a rate of 45 feet per year between 2002 and 2007. Another recent study along the same stretch of the Beaufort Sea verified "disappearing" cultural and historical sites, including Esook, a turn-of-the-century trading post, and Kolovik (Qalluvik), an abandoned Inupiaq village site that may soon be lost. The authors speculate that recent trends toward warming sea-surface temperatures related to global warming and rising sea-level act to weaken permafrost-dominated coastlines by more quickly thawing ice-rich coastal bluffs and may explain the disproportionate increase in erosion along ice-rich coastal bluffs relative to ice-poor coastal bluffs.

To read the USGS study, go to *Increase in the rate and uniformity of coastline erosion in arctic Alaska* in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, at www.agu.org/journals/gl/gl0903/2008GL036205/
To read more about erosion and the loss of archeological sites, go to *Modern erosion rates and loss of coastal features and sites, Beaufort Sea coast, Alaska* in the December 2008 issue of *Arctic*.

Book about Pipes at Fort Union NHS

J. Byron Sudbury has published *Politics of the Fur Trade: Clay Tobacco Pipes at the Fort Union Trading Post (32WII7)*. Fort Union Trading Post was the most important fur trading post on the upper Missouri from 1828 to 1867. At this post, the Assiniboine, Crow, Cree, Ojibway, Blackfeet, Hidatsa, and other tribes traded buffalo robes and other furs for goods such as beads, guns, blankets, knives, cookware, cloth, and pipes. Archeological excavations at Fort Union NHS have resulted in a significant collection of 19th century pipes. Analysis of the pipes and origins has contributed important information about manufacturing and transportation in the expansion of the U.S. Sudbury's book provides an overview of research on the pipes found at Fort Union and, with 108 photographic plates, will be a useful reference for pipe identification.

Research about Fort Union pipes was featured in the June 2008 Archeology E-Gram. Read the report *Politics of the Fur Trade: Clay Tobacco Pipes at Fort Union, North Dakota* at www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/fortUnion.htm

To learn more about Fort Union NHS, go to www.nps.gov/fous/
To order the book, go to www.claypipes.com

ICE and CBP return pre-Columbian Artifacts to Peruvian Government

Officials from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) returned to the Peruvian government 334 pre-Columbian artifacts that were seized in 2007 following an ICE-led investigation. The investigation began when ICE agents in Laredo received information from ICE's National Cyber Crimes Center about the alleged illegal sale in the Laredo area of Peruvian artifacts by Jorge Ernesto Lanás-Ugaz.

On March 1, 2007, a CBP officer at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport referred Lanás-Ugaz, who had just arrived from Lima, Peru, for a secondary examination. After confiscating five items, the CBP contacted ICE, which had the artifacts evaluated by archeologists from the American Museum of Natural History. Museum archaeologists confirmed that the items are authentic pre-Columbian and have significant cultural value.

Four days later, ICE, CBP and Laredo Police Department officers executed a federal search warrant at Lanás-Ugaz's home in Laredo. They discovered many additional authentic artifacts, which included textiles, ceramic figures, wood sculptures, and metal and stone art. All the items had been illegally

exported from Peru into the United States. Lanás-Ugaz was arrested at his home without incident. All the seized artifacts were further examined and authenticated by research scientists from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, Latin American Archaeology Program.

This is one of the largest seizures of Peruvian pre-Columbian artifacts into the south Texas area. Peru is one of the signatories to a 1970 General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Through the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, the United States entered into a cultural property agreement with the Peruvian government to help protect archaeological and ethnological materials through import controls.

To read the entire article, go to www.ice.gov/pi/nr/0902/090211laredo.htm

HUD Develops Section 106 Agreements Database

The HUD office of Environment and Energy has posted a NHPA Section 106 agreement on its public website. The database is a collection of HUD-related Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) and Programmatic Agreements (PA) from across the country, mostly from 2001 to present. The main purpose of this database is to provide users with a way to find agreements that may serve as models or samples for current projects that require a MOA or PA for compliance purposes. The intent is to facilitate the drafting of new Section 106 agreements. Users can also search the database and obtain a copy of an MOA or PA currently in effect for their records. The database will be updated as new MOAs and PAs are submitted.

To view the database, go to www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/environment/section106/index.cfm

Projects in Parks: Archeological Investigations at Ulysses S. Grant NHS

Archeological investigations at Ulysses S. Grant NHS have recovered artifact assemblages that help to understand the organization of labor at White Haven, Grant's wife's family farm. Excavations in the one significant stone building on the property suggest that it was the summer kitchen. The buttons, pins, thimbles, and hooks and eyes that were recovered indicate that laundry was mended as well. While it is unknown whether enslaved African Americans actually lived in the building, the artifacts recovered indicate that a number of domestic activities took place, including cooking for personal consumption, childcare, and personal hygiene.

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 www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the Archeology Program web site.

Projects in Parks is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in national parks. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* webpage on InsideNPS. The full reports are available on the *Projects in Parks* web page inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670 on InsideNPS or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* on the on the *News and Links* page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the Archeology Program web site.

Contact: dca@nps.gov to contribute news items, stories for "Projects in Parks," and to subscribe.