



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



October 2009 Archeology E-Gram

Michele Aubry to Retire

NPS archeologist Michele Aubry will retire on November 3 after nearly 32 years of Federal service. Born and raised in California, Michele's interest in archeology was sparked in junior high school. She earned a BA in sociology and anthropology at Occidental College, Los Angeles, and an MA in anthropology from the University of California, Riverside.

Michele started working for the NPS in 1978, in the National Recreation and Preservation Programs Washington Office. Her first position was in the Interagency Archeological Services Division. Other positions were in the Archeological Assistance Division, the Office of the Departmental Consulting Archeologist, and the Office of the Assistant Director for Archeology. In 1991, Michele transferred to the NPS Anthropology Division. Her current position is with the Archeology Program.

Michele says she has had great opportunities to work on interesting assignments and meet dedicated people including her first husband, the late Harvey Shields. One of her most exciting assignments was serving as a U.S. Delegate to UNESCO meetings of governmental experts to develop the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Another assignment was participating on an international park planning team to develop a management plan for the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatephur Sikri World Heritage Sites in India.

Other work included participating in international negotiations to develop agreements for protection of the RMS *Titanic* and *La Belle* shipwrecks; developing the NPS Abandoned Shipwreck Act Guidelines; developing the Federal regulation, 36 CFR Part 79, for curation of federally owned and administered archeological collections; leading a team to develop OPM standards for the GS-0193 Archeology job series; and leading a team to develop the NPS Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program (SAIP), that distributes over \$2 million annually to parks for archeology projects.

Michele will miss her NPS friends and colleagues but is looking forward to sharing more time with her husband, Peter Christensen. They plan to remain in northern Virginia and continue their quest to see the world's historical and natural wonders. She will continue to serve on the Maryland Advisory Committee on Archaeology and the Fairfax County Architectural Review Board.

One of Michele's last contributions is the expanded NPS Archeology Program web pages about submerged archeological resources (see below). For more information about Michele's contributions to the Archeology Program, see "NPS Archeologist receives Department of the Interior Superior Service Award" (www.nps.gov/archeology/pubs/egrams/0906.pdf) in the *June 2009 Archeology E-Gram*.

Perry Wheelock Named Chief of Cultural Resources for NPS National Capital Region

Perry Wheelock has been selected as National Capital Region's (NCR) new chief of cultural resources. She begins her new duties on October 26, 2009. Wheelock earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and George Washington University, and also completed the landscape design and historic landscape preservation certificate programs at the latter.

Whelock, an employee of the NPS for 11 years, and a contractor for 8, brings experience from a variety of leadership positions within the Service to her new job. She served for nearly three years as the chief of Resource Management for the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C. She was directly involved with the planning for the Potomac Park levee, American Reinvestment and Recovery Act projects, and the National Mall plan.

She also served as the Cultural Resource manager and briefly as division chief of Resource Management and Visitor Services for Rock Creek Park, where she was involved with development of several cultural landscape reports, planning and development of the extensive preservation project at Meridian Hill Park, and the reintroduction of migratory fish passage with the installation of a new fish ladder near Peirce Mill on Rock Creek.

Whelock has also served as a landscape historian in the NCR Cultural Landscape Program, where she authored various cultural landscape studies for parks located at Harpers Ferry NHP, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP, Monocacy NB, Rock Creek Park, the Patrick Henry NM and the Lincoln Memorial.

Whelock's new work will include overseeing the care and maintenance of NCR's cultural resources, expanding and exploring the connections between the cultural histories of NCR, and working more collaboratively across many disciplines to sustain and strengthen the connections among park units, especially those parks that contribute directly to a fuller understanding of the Potomac River watershed.

NPS Archeology Program Announces Expanded Web Pages on Submerged Resources

Each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands has an individual program for managing its underwater cultural heritage. What is the heritage program? What sites are underwater? Who takes care of underwater sites? What permits are needed to study sites? Are there underwater parks? What underwater archeology laws are there?

The NPS Archeology Program answers many of these questions and more through its expanded web pages on *Preserving a Submerged Legacy* (www.nps.gov/archeology/SITES/Subcul.htm). The previous links to a dozen State programs and projects have been replaced with a new and expanded section that provides detailed information about submerged cultural resources laws for each of the State, District, and the U.S. territories. There are 56 separate web pages!

Another significant change is the addition of information about the full range of management authorities available to government agencies in support of their efforts to preserve and protect submerged cultural resources. This information is contained in a downloadable PDF file.

NPS Archeology Program Creates New Webpage about America's Best Idea

Ken Burns's documentary, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, celebrates the national parks as an American invention that applies democratic principles to the land. America's cultural parks are an important feature of the NPS story, from the battlefields and ancient ruins protected simultaneously with Yosemite and Yellowstone, to the legislative landmarks that protect cultural places today, to a growing certitude of the value of historic places to national identity. Learn how everyday people advocated to preserve archeological and historic sites, and how archeology has helped to make the democratic spaces of national parks even more so, in *The National Parks: Preserving America's Past* at www.nps.gov/archeology/BestIdea/index.htm

Remains of Soldier Killed At Antietam Interred in New York

On December 1-3, 2008, NPS archeologists Stephen R. Potter, Marian Creveling, Karen Orrence, and Bob Sonderman conducted excavations at the site of a previously unknown and unmarked battlefield burial at Antietam NB, after a park visitor discovered four bones, a jaw fragment containing four teeth, and a piece of

leather at the mouth of a ground hog burrow. Based on analysis of the clothing and skeletal remains, the remains are a Union soldier who fought with a New York regiment. The young man was between 17 and 19 years old when he was killed in action on September 17, 1862.

A transfer ceremony was held on September 15, 2009, at the Antietam National Cemetery, as part of Operation: Returning Home, which was coordinated by the New York State Military Museum, Military Forces Honor Guard (NYANG) and the NPS. The New York contingent provided a period style coffin to hold the remains of the unknown soldier. The remains were first placed in a smaller repository box crafted by Antietam NB carpenters Lynn Keener and George Slifer out of wood from a black walnut tree that had fallen on the Mumma Farm at Antietam NB. Antietam rangers served as pallbearers and transferred the soldier's remains to the New York Honor Guard. The remains were interred in the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. The NPS was represented at the funeral by staff from Saratoga NHP.

NPS Archeologist at Society for Hawaiian Archeology Meeting

At the Society for Hawaiian Archeology annual meeting October 24-25, NPS Archeologist Jade Munoz-Nakimura was a moderator for a discussion of public archeology in Hawaii. A panel of archeologists working for cultural resource management firms identified several areas of concern that, while specific to Hawaii, challenge CRM companies nationally. Panelists cited difficulty in identifying and accessing reports of previous investigations in contracted research areas. They examined potential safeguards for ethical practices in Hawaiian archeology, specifically focusing on use of penalties for insufficient work. The panel also noted that a well informed Native Hawaiian community was key to good collaboration between archeologists and Native Hawaiians. Several Hawaiian schools employ archeology educators, but more effort is needed to develop educational materials, and educational materials in Hawaiian.

Man Punished for Illegal Excavations at Joshua NP

In April 2007, park rangers encountered Scott Johnson as he was walking back to his car after illegally digging at an archeological site in Joshua NP. Johnson had digging implements and two old beer cans in his possession. Johnson was issued an optional appearance citation, which he soon paid. The park archeologist subsequently inspected the site and found that Johnson had excavated 17 holes. Because a more serious criminal case was no longer possible due to the paid citation, a Park Resources Protection Act (PRPA) (16 USC 19jj) action was initiated. The park archeologist subsequently completed an archeological damage assessment.

In January 2008, Johnson was served with notice of a PRPA violation by an NPS special agent. In February 2009, Johnson agreed to a settlement that included paying \$2,000 in restitution to the park, initiating online discussions on the Brewery Collectibles Club of America (BCCA) and "Rusty Bunch" beer can collecting forums, and submitting an anti-looting article to the BCCA magazine, *Beer Cans and Brewery Collectibles*. In September 2009 "A Reminder to Consider Where We Dig," was published in the BCCA magazine, outlining Johnson's experience dealing with the violation, why the Federal government preserves cultural resources, and listing Federal regulations and laws that protect those resources.

Native American Artifacts and Human Remains Returned After ARPA Conviction

In early 2003, the NPS, FBI, BIA, BATF, USFWS and Collville Confederated Tribes began a joint investigation into purported trafficking and possession of illegal artifacts and wildlife by a man in eastern Washington state. Kenneth Milette possessed archeological resources taken from Glacier NP, Lake Roosevelt NRA, Bighorn Battlefield NM, and the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, and Nez Perce Indian Reservations. Additionally, Milette possessed Native American human remains from at least one adult and several children and prohibited wildlife, including a fully mounted golden eagle. In 2003, Milette agreed to sell his collection to an undercover NPS agent for \$750,000. This collection included nearly 1,500 artifacts from Federal and Indian lands, violating NAGPRA, the Lacey Act, the Eagle Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

Milette was indicted by a grand jury in September 2008 on four felonies (two ARPA counts and one count each for MBTA and Lacey Act violations) and two misdemeanors (NAGPRA and Eagle Act). In October 2008, Milette pled guilty to two felony ARPA counts, a NAGPRA count and a felony MBTA count. He was sentenced in December to three years of probation and six months of home confinement with electronic monitoring, ordered to pay over \$17,000 in restitution and other costs, and to pay for three anti-looting ads in regional newspapers.

The Native American artifacts were returned to the Colville Confederated Tribes, Nez Perce Tribe and Spokane Tribe on September 24, 2009. The return ceremony took place at the Federal courthouse in Spokane, Washington. After the ceremony, Lake Roosevelt NRA superintendent Debbie Bird gave members of the investigative team certificates for the 2008 Pacific West Region Cultural Resource Project through Partnerships Award.

Project Proposals for Park NAGPRA Internship Program Sought

The Park NAGPRA program is soliciting project proposals for its 2010 internship program. Park NAGPRA internships provide opportunities for students to work in parks, centers, and offices nationwide on projects related to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Interns help manage the treatment and repatriation of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony as defined under NAGPRA. Projects may include working with archeological and ethnographic collections, assisting with consultation meetings, assisting with repatriation, or administrative tasks. Any NPS unit with NAGPRA needs may submit an internship project proposal. The deadline for submission is December 16, 2009.

For more information, contact Mary Carroll, at 303-969-2300.

Preserve America Stewards Program Emphasizes Archeological Stewardship

The Preserve America Program, managed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), invites applications for its Preserve America Stewards program. Preserve America Stewards is a Federal designation program that recognizes organizations and agencies that successfully use volunteers to help care for the nation's historic heritage. Preserve America and ACHP are especially interested in seeing organizations recognized for their stewardship of archeological properties.

Preserve America Steward designation recognizes programs of organizations and agencies that:

- provide volunteers with opportunities to contribute in direct and tangible ways to the preservation, protection, and promotion of historic properties;
- address an otherwise unfilled need in heritage preservation through the use of volunteer efforts; and
- demonstrate innovative and creative use of volunteer assistance in areas such as youth involvement, volunteer training, public education, and public/private partnerships.

Preserve America Stewards receive a designation letter and certificate of recognition signed by First Lady Michelle Obama. Non-profit organizations, government entities (Federal, state, local, or tribal), and businesses are eligible to seek designation for their programs. The next quarterly deadlines for submitting applications to the Preserve America Stewards program are December 1, 2009, and March 1, 2010.

For more information, visit: <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/stewards.html>.

George Wright Society Redesigns Web Site

The George Wright Society (GWS) has launched a totally redesigned website (www.georgewright.org). The site has been revamped from top to bottom to provide a cleaner, more uncluttered look. Almost all pages on the site can be accessed through the front-page navigation menus.

A new feature on the website is *Parkwire: Protected Area News from Around the World*. GWS searches the Web several times a week for news stories about parks, protected areas, and cultural sites and brings the links to your desktop. If you want to keep up with the latest in the world of protected areas, bookmark the website and visit often! GWS staff will be adding more new features to the site in the months to come.

Founded in 1980, the George Wright Society promotes the application of knowledge, fostering communication, improving resource management, and providing information to improve public understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural parks and equivalent reserves. The society is dedicated to the protection, preservation, and management of cultural and natural parks and reserves through research and education.

NPS Social Science Program Launches Focus Group Resources Web Site

Occasionally, archeologists use focus groups to evaluate products or identify needs. Conducting a focus group that gives useful results, however, can be challenging. The University of Idaho Visitor Services Project, an activity of the NPS Social Science Program, has launched a new website (<http://psu.uidaho.edu/focusgroup/>) about the use of focus groups for evaluating park programs, activities, and visitor services. The site explains how focus groups should (and should not) be used and describes a peer reviewed process for managing and conducting focus groups. Topics include obtaining approval to conduct focus groups, formulating focus group questions, preparing the meeting place, training moderators, recruiting participants, conducting focus groups, transcribing results, and writing the report. The site is useful both for planning to conduct focus groups using in-house staff, and in evaluating proposals for focus groups received from outside sources.

For more information, contact Nancy Holmes, University of Idaho Visitor Services Project, (208) 885-2819.

Projects in Parks: Supporting Community Archeology: The Golovin Heritage Field School

NPS archeologists care for archeological sites on park lands. Sometimes, however, the NPS supports community-based archeology fieldwork outside of parks. Archeological projects in local communities help people understand history and prehistory in their own neighborhoods. By working on a site in their community, people can learn about archeological methods and the types of information that archeological sites can hold that are relevant to their heritage. The involvement also helps people learn about the importance of cultural resources and the need to protect them.

Between 1998 and 2000, the Shared Beringian Heritage Program funded the Golovin Native Corporation in northwestern Alaska to carry out archeological investigations at sites on corporation lands. The Golovin Native Corporation controls land on the southern part of the Seward Peninsula that borders northeastern Norton Sound.

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* web page on InsideNPS. The full reports are available on the *Research in the Parks* web page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npsites.htm> or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram*.

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