



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## November 2010 Archeology E-Gram

### Students Excavate Ancestral Cherokee House

Archeologists in Great Smoky Mountains NP have undertaken an annual summer archeological field program that connects Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian (EBCI) high school students from the Cherokee and Snowbird communities with their ancestral past. During the 2010 field season, students excavated an ancestral Cherokee house and had an opportunity to learn archeological field methods and regional culture history.

Students learned proper excavation and recording techniques including mapping, archeological photography, and locational artifact information record keeping. Excavated features included storage pits and house post holes. Students found ceramic vessel fragments, quartz and chert used for making stone tools, groundstone tool fragments for pulverizing and grinding plant materials, and a small gaming stone used in game of chance. Lectures in topics such as Cherokee history, geology, zooarcheology, plant ecology provide the students with a holistic view of the science of archeology.

Archeologists use the term Mississippian to refer to a time period (AD 1000- 1350) during which populations in southeastern North America shifted to large scale agriculture from gathered and hunted wild foods. Mississippian populations relied on corn, beans, and squash for a large portion of their diet, and concentrated around large ceremonial mound complexes. Social complexity, trade networks, communal cooperation, and warfare all expanded during the Mississippian period.

Radiocarbon dates indicated that the excavated house was built around AD 970  $\pm$ 70 years, offering an opportunity to learn about a poorly understood period in Cherokee development. The house is not associated with any known Mississippian mound center and offers an opportunity to examine rural proto-Mississippian life in the southern Appalachian Mountains.

The site was discovered in 2007 during excavations for a utility corridor that provided municipal water and sewer service to an NPS campground. The project was made possible through the cooperative efforts of the EBCI's Tribal Historic Preservation Office, the North Carolina SHPO, the University of Tennessee's Archeological Research Laboratory, and the NPS. The Smoky Mountain Archeological Field program was supported through a Challenge Cost Grant.

(from story by Erik Skot Kreuzsch)

### Archeological Investigation Underway At Fort Mason

NPS archeologists are uncovering a piece of history at Fort Mason in Golden Gate NRA – Euroamerican human remains, probably dating from the 19th century. Human bones were found in lead contaminated soils around the foundation of a historic building. Work halted while the archeologist monitoring the work conferred with U.S. Park Police and the San Francisco medical examiner to determine whether this was a modern crime scene. The remains most likely date to the 1860s, when the area was used as a military hospital. The NPS Archeology Group finished excavating the remains before the lead contamination removal proceeded. The number of people represented by the bones has not been determined, but may be as many as 20.

For more information about Fort Mason, go to [www.nps.gov/goga/historyculture/fort-mason.htm](http://www.nps.gov/goga/historyculture/fort-mason.htm)

(from story by Alexandra Picavet)

### **Man Sentenced For ARPA Violation**

Kettle Falls, WA, resident Sandie McNeil pled guilty on November 2, 2010, in Federal court to unauthorized removal of archeological resources from Lake Roosevelt NRA. Lake Roosevelt staff had repeated contacts with McNeil between 2005 and 2008 regarding his use of a metal detector in the park and behavior consistent with artifact collecting. A search warrant executed on McNeil's residence and vehicle resulted in the recovery of over 3,000 artifacts. Among the seized items were projectile points, stone weights and tools, stone flakes, a gun flint, and a gun cartridge. McNeil was sentenced by a Federal judge to three years' probation and ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine and an additional \$2,000 in restitution. The judge also ordered McNeil to serve 30 days home detention and banned him from the recreation area for three years. Beth Lariviere was the case officer and was assisted by park archeologist Ray DePuydt. The prosecution was assisted by special agent Todd Swain.

(from story by Bill Archard)

### **Cultural Resources Stolen from NPS sites are Recovered**

In July 2009, Bandelier NM protection rangers received information about thefts of natural and cultural resources from NPS sites. Investigative Services Branch agents and Bandelier rangers conducted an investigation that eventually identified a number of affected NPS areas. In September 2009, a search warrant was served at the suspect's residence in Montpelier, Virginia, by NPS rangers and ISB and FWS agents. Numerous cultural and natural resource items were recovered. On October 27, 2010 pursuant to a plea agreement, the defendant pled guilty to violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

(from story by Christopher Smith, Assistant Special Agent in Charge)

### **National Historic Landmarks Committee Recommends Two Archeological Sites**

The National Historic Landmarks Committee recommended that two archeological properties be listed as National Historic Landmarks. The nominated properties are the Lynch Quarry site, Dunn County, ND, and Grand Mound, Koochiching County, MN. The committee also recommended that the boundaries of Medicine Wheel NHL, Big Horn County, WY, be expanded to include Medicine Mountain, a traditional cultural property. The list of nominations is forwarded to the NPS Advisory Board, who approves and forwards the list to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

#### *Lynch Quarry*

The quarry is the type site and a primary source for Knife River flint, a distinctive coffee-colored chert that was widely used and traded, particularly during the Paleoindian and Middle Woodland periods. The site covers a minimum of 690 acres of spoil piles and associated pits excavated three to ten feet to the chert source. There are an estimated 20,000 pits at the site. This must have been an impressive sight at a time of active use, as the quarry, located on the shore of Spring Creek, was bare of vegetation. Lynch Quarry will be only one of three Native American quarries recognized as National Historic Landmarks.

#### *Grand Mound*

Grand Mound, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, is located along the Rainy River at the mouth of Big Fork River. Despite being known and frequently visited since the 1870s, it was only recently recognized that the conical mound has a long tail and is actually an effigy mound. Grand Mound may represent a muskrat "Earthdiver." The mound, which dates to the Middle/Late Woodland period, continues to be a sacred site to the Ojibwa and Dakota peoples who reside in the area.

### *Medicine Wheel*

This nomination expands the boundary of an existing landmark to include Medicine Mountain, the associated spirit lodge. Archeological and ethnographic research since the 1970s demonstrates that the medicine wheel marks and honors the spirituality of the sacred site. The medicine wheel is important to many tribes in the region and spiritual and cultural traditions associated with the site have developed over thousands of years. New evidence dates the use of the area from 6720 B.P. The new boundary will include ceremonial approaches to the medicine wheel and plant gathering areas, as well as Medicine Mountain.

For more information about the National Historic Landmarks Program, go to [www.nps.gov/history/nhl/](http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/)

### **Call for Papers for Park Science Volume on Wilderness**

To celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, *Park Science*, in cooperation with the NPS Wilderness Stewardship Division Office, is soliciting contributions for the winter 2011–2012 issue dedicated to the interface of science and wilderness stewardship. Case studies, research reports, science features, literature summaries, notes from abroad, and field perspectives are welcomed. Topics for this special issue include climate change, cultural resources, fire, visitor management/social science, wilderness character/monitoring, and wilderness education.

The NPS is responsible for the largest amount of wilderness acreage of the four Federal agencies with oversight for federally designated wilderness. There are currently 60 individual wildernesses in 49 units of the National Park System. Four out of five acres administered by the NPS are to be managed under a wilderness prescription and one in six federally managed acres is designated wilderness.

Guest editors for this issue are Wade Vagias, NPS, and Ingrid Schneider, University of Minnesota. The deadline for 300-word abstract/draft submissions is January 6, 2011. The abstract should include the topic, including a summary of the research or resource management project, key findings and application to management, and why the research or project is significant to advancing knowledge of wilderness management. Include authors' names and contact information. If possible, indicate the category that best fits the submission (e.g., case study, research report, science feature). Abstracts invited for further consideration will be subject to a peer and editorial review process. Full, contributed articles will be invited by February 15, 2011. Final manuscripts will be due May 6, 2011.

Contact: Wade Vagias, (202) 513-7124

Author Guidelines for Park Science are found at

[www.nature.nps.gov/ParkScience/guidance.cfm?staticPageTitle=Author guidelines \(page 1\): Writing for Park Science](http://www.nature.nps.gov/ParkScience/guidance.cfm?staticPageTitle=Author_guidelines_(page_1):_Writing_for_Park_Science)

### **Exploring the Past: Archeology in the Upper Mississippi River Valley**

Walking beside thousand year old burial mounds, flaking raw stone into tools, learning how potsherds tell us about human behavior, and understanding how humans adapt to complex, ever changing environments - the 2011 NEH Summer Institute in La Crosse, Wisconsin features all this and more! The Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, will offer a three-week NEH Summer Institute July 11–29, 2011.

This dynamic learning experience for K-12 teachers will explore how Native Americans and Euro-Americans have adapted to the Upper Mississippi River Valley over the past 13,500 years, and how

archeology leads to an understanding of ways that human cultures change and adapt through time. The institute will feature a one-day excavation experience, field trips to archeological sites, hands-on laboratory, classroom and workshop activities, and demonstrations.

Individual projects will help participants tailor the content to their own teaching areas. Participants receive a \$2,700 stipend to help offset their expenses. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2011.

Applications and information about the Institute are available online at [www.uwlax.edu/mvac/neh.htm](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/neh.htm).

### **National Trust for Historic Preservation has issued a major new report**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has issued a report evaluating the Federal Government's efforts to meet its statutory obligations under NHPA Section 106. *Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act: Back to Basics* urges Federal agencies to take more seriously their obligations to consider the effects of their activities on the nation's heritage.

The report makes seven key recommendations, each accompanied by a set of more detailed suggestions to improve Section 106 compliance:

- Federal agencies must endorse and compel compliance with Section 106.
- Federal agencies need to ensure earlier and broader integration of preservation values in their planning processes.
- The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation should vigorously assert Section 106 as its core mission.
- Improvements are needed to increase consulting party access and public involvement in the Section 106 process.
- State and tribal Section 106 programs should be supported by fees and full appropriation of proceeds in the national Historic Preservation Fund account.
- Prior to further federal agency use of alternative approaches to comply with Section 106, the Advisory Council should establish standards to promote accountability for implementing these "program alternatives."
- Section 106 stakeholders should pursue new ways of using technology, while improving and expanding existing uses.

To read the full report, go to [www.preservationnation.org/resources/legal-resources/understanding-preservation-law/federal-law/section-106/back-to-basics.html?altcast\\_code=6645cbf1e7](http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/legal-resources/understanding-preservation-law/federal-law/section-106/back-to-basics.html?altcast_code=6645cbf1e7)

### **National Trust for Historic Preservation Launches Cultural Heritage Tourism Survival Toolkit**

The recent downturn in the economy has had a major impact on many sectors of the cultural and heritage tourism industry, including closing of heritage sites and museums, eliminating state cultural resource programs, reduced budgets in tourism agencies, and limiting cultural heritage tourism programs and organizations.

Despite this, a number of attractions and marketing organizations have found ways to survive and actually thrive despite the economic downturn. Many of these cultural and heritage sites have shown creative ways to stay true to their organization's mission while reaching for new opportunities.

To share these lessons, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Heritage Tourism Program received an award from NEA to create a survival toolkit with three key components:

- 11 survival strategies developed from in-depth interviews with hundreds of people and organizations nationwide;
- Case studies that illustrate those strategies in action; and
- Links to other online toolkits for additional information on moving forward in a bad economy.

The toolkit provides urgently needed assistance to the cultural and heritage tourism industry, including the arts, preservation, tourism, museums, humanities, and other related areas.

To access the toolkit, go to

[www.preservationnation.org/issues/heritage-tourism/survival-toolkit/](http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/heritage-tourism/survival-toolkit/)

### **The Archaeology Channel Interviews Tom King on NHPA and NEPA**

Rick Pettigrew interviews Tom King on The Archaeology Channel's Video News. King, who handled Section 106 consultations for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for a decade, has pithy and critical comments on Federal compliance with NHPA, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Cape Wind project, Section 106 streamlining, and other cultural resource topics.

Listen to the interview at [www.archaeologychannel.org/VideoNews.html](http://www.archaeologychannel.org/VideoNews.html)

### **UNESCO approves a World Heritage Thematic Program on Prehistory**

The government of Spain, at the 32<sup>nd</sup> UNESCO meeting, offered to fund a thematic study on prehistoric sites. Properties with strong links to human origins are insufficiently represented on the World Heritage List and are located in all parts of the world. Abstracts invited for further consideration will be subject to a peer and editorial review process. The values of these properties are under-recognized and it is often challenging for countries to conserve this heritage and manage its specific vulnerability. The focal area of the study covers at least 2.5 million years of human prehistory.

The thematic program will focus on the origins of human life and subsequent social development. The long evolutionary process transformed the human experience from life in a natural environment to life in a largely built environment, from a hunter-gatherer life style through the more settled ways of farmers, herds, and fishermen, to the urbanized environments of today. The diversity of human heritage is represented in archeological sites across the world and preserves the invaluable record of early human history.

Key objectives of the program include establishing links between scientific research and conservation, broadening the definition of world heritage to better reflect the full spectrum of the world's cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value, preserving the identified properties from deterioration, and developing collaborative outreach and sustainable initiatives to protect the sites. Outcomes include credibility for importance of the sites, site conservation and preservation, capacity building for management and conservation programs, communication venues for sites, and cooperative communities involved in care and nomination of sites.

To read the prehistory theme study action plan go to [whc.unesco.org/document/104575](http://whc.unesco.org/document/104575)

### **Projects in Parks: An Ancestral Puebloan Community in Morefield Canyon, Mesa Verde NP**

The Mesa Verde National Park Community Center Survey (MVNP CCS) is a multi-year study to understand the formation of large, aggregated pueblo villages from A.D. 600-1300 in the central Mesa Verde region of southwestern Colorado. One goal of the project is to understand the reasons why

populations moved from dispersed homesteads and hamlets into larger aggregated communities. During an eight week field season, the crew found evidence of public architecture and infrastructure in Morefield Canyon that had the potential to greatly enhance the agricultural productivity and population carrying capacity. These initial population aggregations sowed the seeds for the later massive cliff dwellings that give Mesa Verde its fame.

To read the full report, go to:

<http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/MEVEmorefieldCanyon.htm>

*Projects in Parks* is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in national parks. The full reports are available on the *Research in the Parks* web page [www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.htm) or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram*. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* web page on InsideNPS.

**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 NPS 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](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm) on the NPS Archeology Program web site.

**Contact:** [dca@nps.gov](mailto:dca@nps.gov) to contribute news items, stories for *Projects in Parks*, submit citations and a brief abstract for your peer-reviewed publications, and to subscribe.