



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



March 2011 Archeology E-Gram

Archeology Program Website has New Front Page

The NPS Archeology Program website has a new front page promoting archeology as a way to get moving outside. The America's Great Outdoors and Let's Move, America! programs encourage outdoor activities. Learn more about the kinds of outdoor adventures possible through archeology at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/>.

Important Taino Petroglyph Discovered

A Taino Indian petroglyph has been discovered in Virgin Island NP that has significant implications regarding human occupation and use of Reef Bay and St. John. Evidence that the petroglyphs were carved by the Taino Indians is supported by similarity to designs found on pottery at the Cinnamon Bay and Trunk Bay archeology excavations along with correlating radiocarbon dates. The same design as the recently documented petroglyph was painted on the oldest dated pottery style in the islands. Saladoid pottery has been dated between 100 BC and 500 AD. People were coming to the area of the Reef Bay petroglyphs earlier than was once thought. The petroglyphs were possibly 2,500 years old.

The finding supports archeological theories about the continuity in use of ritual places. The carving represents at least 1,500 years of use of a culturally defines sacred place. It emphasizes the significance that Reef Bay had to the people who lived here prior to the European colonization of the islands. The finding also confirms the route of those who came to live in St. John. This style of carving is found down island in St. Lucia and even as far as Venezuela. It shows how people travelled and how widely their cultural beliefs and ties extended throughout the Caribbean, possibly going back to the fourth century BC.

Additional research on the site is underway. For more information about Virgin Island NP and the Taino people, go to <http://www.nps.gov/viis/index.htm>.

Natchez Trace Parkway repatriates to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

On February 23, 2011, officials from the Natchez Trace Parkway signed a major repatriation agreement officially transferring custody of 124 Native American human remains and over 200 funerary items from the custody of the NPS to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. The agreement represents the largest repatriation in the history of the Choctaw Nation and the first major repatriation between the two organizations. The Choctaw Nation has over 200,000 members nationally and is the third largest federally recognized tribe in the country. The Natchez Trace bisects the traditional Choctaw and Chickasaw homelands

A signing ceremony was held at tribal headquarters in Durant, Oklahoma. Superintendent Cam Sholly addressed Chief Gregory Pyle, the tribal council, members of the NAGPRA Advisory Council, and over 100 members of the tribe. Twenty-one different tribes were consulted during the repatriation process, which was funded through the National NAGPRA Program. People deserving special recognition for completing the agreement include Christina Smith, Natchez Trace Parkway cultural resources specialist; Margo Schwadron, NAGPRA Coordinator, NPS Southeast Archeology Center; NAGPRA intern Maranda Kles; and Ian Thompson, Assistant Director, Historic Preservation, Choctaw Nation.

Cultural Resources at the George Wright Society Meeting

Cultural resources were on the agenda at the bi-annual George Wright Society Meeting in New Orleans March 14-18, 2011. Archeologist Brian Fagan gave the first plenary session talk, "The Long View of

Climate Change: What the Lessons of the Past Teach Us about What We Need to do in the Future.” The second plenary session featured a panel discussion of Native American and First Nation representatives entitled “Government-to-Government Consultations with Native Peoples: From the Rhetoric of Respect to Real Results.” Ten percent of the sessions and sharing circles (21/217) and eight percent of the posters (15/197) included cultural resource presentations. Several sessions, such as Session 79- Vernacular Cultural Landscapes within Lake Superior Area National Parks and Session 108- a sharing circle “Integrating Cultural Resources with Wilderness Character” focused *only* on cultural resources.

The meeting also hosted the third Native Film Night, which featured the films of eight Native film makers and started with a reception to honor and celebrate the presence of Native conference attendees.

For more information about the George Wright Society and the 2011 biannual conference, go to www.georgewright.org/

NPS Vanishing Treasures Superintendents Honor Toothman

During the Cultural Resources Business Meeting on the last day of the George Wright Society in March 2011, NPS Superintendents from western parks honored Stephanie Toothman, NPS Associate Director Cultural Resources, for her efforts on behalf of the Vanishing Treasures (VT) Program. Virginia Salazar-Halfmoon, VT Program Manager, presented Toothman with a handsome engraved Nambe platter from the Nambe Pueblo and spoke of Toothman’s efforts to safeguard the future of the program. Toothman was a member of the VT Board that worked to successfully convert the Vanishing Treasures initiative to a permanent program by convincing superintendents and regional directors to support the program. Today, the Vanishing Treasures Program is one of the most effective cultural resources programs in the national park system and works with 45 parks in the arid west to protect and preserve cultural resources.

For more information about the Vanishing Treasures Program, go to www.nps.gov/archeology/vt/vt.htm.

3-D Film Comes to the NPS!

Almost 150 national parks have significant aquatic resources, from our 40 ocean parks to the springs at Yellowstone, and the NPS has found a new way to showcase spectacular underwater resources. David Conlin, Chief, and Brett Seymour, videographer, NPS Submerged Resources Center are developing three-dimensional (3D), high definition (HD) videos of submerged archeological and other cultural resources in national parks. NPS employees at Headquarters and the George Wright Society were invited to put on dark Roy Oribison glasses and view the work in progress in March 2011.

Endangered elkhorn corals in Virgin Islands NP, healthy reefs off Dry Tortugas NP; massive shipwrecks near Isle Royale NP, kelp forests of Channel Islands NP, the USS Arizona, and a submerged B29 Superfortress aircraft in Lake Mead NRA sprang to life. When combined with the filming capabilities of a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) the results were breathtaking. ROV images of the interior of the USS Arizona, for example, showed rooms with desks and sinks still intact, filled with more than two feet of sediment. The films are so realistic, says Seymour, that children who viewed the films tried to catch the fish with their hands.

The films being currently produced are ambassadors for the NPS to school children in order to engage youth in the out of doors. The films shown in classrooms can be shown on a flat screen TV or projected. The 3D effect comes from the way that the videos are filmed, not from the way that they are projected and the cost of making a 3D underwater video is not significantly more than making a conventional video. A series of films are planned to showcase the resources of individual parks.

For more information about the NPS Submerged Resources Center, go to www.nps.gov/applications/submerged/

New State Pages on NPS Website

The NPS has launched a new state-by-state suite of web pages to communicate the breadth of the Service's work. The NPS touches almost every county in the country regardless of its proximity to a national park. Communities invite the NPS to work with them and to help them by providing expertise and grants, reviewing tax credit projects, making surplus Federal land available for parks and recreation facilities, and more.

The goal of the pages is to tell the full story of what the NPS does in 394 parks, and national programs that benefit communities. Many of the programs have the potential to protect and preserve archeological resources. In addition to parks, this first phase of the project includes "by the numbers" statistics for activities of nine additional programs in each state: Land and Water Conservation Fund; American Battlefield Protection Program; Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance; Save America's Treasures; Preserve America; Certified Local Governments; Federal Lands to Parks; National Register of Historic Places; and Historic Rehabilitation Tax Incentives. More programs will be added in future phases. The pages include an interactive map that shows national parks, and additional layers that show national program activities. The list view is another way to explore the map layers.

Find your state by adding the full state name to www.nps.gov/. For example, Mississippi's state page is <http://www.nps.gov/mississippi>.

Rosie Pepito to Head Grand Canyon-Parashant NM

Rosie Pepito has been selected to be the next superintendent of Grand Canyon-Parashant NM, located in northwestern Arizona and headquartered in St. George, Utah. The million-plus acre national monument was established in 2000 by President Clinton and is jointly managed with the BLM.

Pepito previously served as the cultural resources manager at Lake Mead NRA. She began her park service career in 1985 as a museum technician in Yosemite NP and has worked in cultural resource management positions at Joshua Tree NP and Lake Mead and completed a variety of temporary assignments at national parks in California, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Crow Canyon Archaeology Center Partners with Mesa Verde NP on Pottery Analysis

In 2010, Crow Canyon and Mesa Verde NP partnered on a pottery analysis project to study 11,000 pottery sherds and intact pottery vessels from more than 100 sites in the park. The artifacts were from collections that had been catalogued, but not analyzed. Data from the analysis, including counts, weights, and information about pottery types and vessel forms, will help researchers develop occupational histories for the sites from which the pottery was collected. That information, in turn, can be used to address key questions about changes in population size and settlement patterns through time that refine understanding of climate change and demography.

The pottery examined was highly variable, from crude mud ware to highly decorated black-on-white vessels. Some of the most intriguing were also among the oldest, such as Basketmaker Mud Ware dating from the Basketmaker III period (A.D. 500–750). This ware represents the earliest pottery manufactured in the Mesa Verde region. As its name suggests, it is characterized by vegetal temper, unpolished and unpainted surfaces, and a friable texture. Several examples of "fugitive red" were present in the

collections. Fugitive ware refers to a decorative process in which an iron oxide pigment is applied to the surfaces of vessels after they are fired.

The analysis was part of the larger [Village Ecodynamics Project](#) (VEP), a multi-institutional, multidisciplinary project studying the long-term interaction between the ancestral Pueblo Indians and their environment.

From story by Jill Blumenthal, Crow Canyon Archeology Center Laboratory Program Coordinator

Northeastern Native American Stonework Given Recognition in Film

Ted Timreck gave a talk to NPS WASO archeologists in February about Native American stone ruins in northeastern U.S. "The New Antiquarian" is the latest film produced by Spofford Films, in *Hidden Landscapes*, a series that chronicles new theories about Native American monuments. It tells the story of a partnership between archeologists, Native American representatives, and avocational researchers to identify stone monuments and earthworks in eastern North America. Variouslly interpreted as proof of Viking exploration or remnants of colonial settlement, the standing stones, earthworks, cairns, and dry stone walls are re-interpreted as surviving elements of a sacred landscape. The merger of scientific, Native, and avocational research brings a new perspective to one of America's most perplexing mysteries.

The video documentation for these projects is an extensive archive that has been preserving the record of the stone ruins and the field work of scientists for the last 30 years. As part of the Smithsonian Institution's Human Studies Archive, the collection now contains hundreds of hours of field documentation and interviews with scientists and indigenous peoples from the North.

For more information, go to <http://www.hiddenlandscape.com/>

Professor Pleads Guilty in Artifacts Case

On February 25, 2011, Daniel Amick, a professor of archeology at Loyola University in Chicago, entered a guilty plea to one misdemeanor count of violating the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), by systematically removing archeological resources from Federal lands in New Mexico. Amick entered his plea under an agreement with the U. S. Attorney's Office. The U.S Magistrate Judge ordered him to a one-year probation.

The plea and sentencing was the result of a 2 .5 year BLM investigation that culminated in the service of a Federal search warrant that led to the seizure of over 1800 artifacts. Amick admitted to the court that he had knowingly and willfully removed, transported, and possessed archeological resources from public lands without a permit for archeological investigation. Amick had also directed two other conspirators to locate and remove thousands of artifacts from in and around the Jornada Del Muerto Wilderness Study Area for the purposes of his own research and personal gain. Some of these artifacts were sold on E-Bay and recovered through a BLM undercover purchase operation. The two other conspirators are also in negotiations to enter separate pleas.

After sentencing, Amick agreed to turn over nearly 80 other artifacts that he had accumulated and had maintained in his possession. As a condition of his plea, Amick must cooperate and give testimony in furtherance of this investigation.

Durango Artifacts Dealer Pleads Guilty in Trafficking Case

An artifacts collector and dealer apprehended during a Federal sting operation against traffickers of illegal Four Corners antiquities pleaded guilty Wednesday in Salt Lake City's Federal court. Carl "Vern" Crites, of Durango, Colorado, admitted to three felonies associated with buying a pair of Basketmaker sandals worth more than \$1,000 from an undercover source in August 2008 and excavating on Federal lands in San Juan County in September 2008, disturbing human remains and unearthing a knife worth more than \$500. The two counts of theft and damage of government property each carry maximum penalties of 10 years in prison, and one of trafficking in stolen goods carries a maximum two years.

A plea deal could get Crites, 76, probation when Judge Dee Benson sentences him August, 11, 2011. Government agents removed five truckloads of artifacts from the Crites' home, and the plea agreement would make that forfeiture official. A co-defendant who helped Vern Crites during the excavation, Richard Bourret, previously pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 36 months of probation. Crites' wife, Marie, pled guilty to one count involving purchase of ancient sandals. Eleven defendants in the artifact sweep, mostly from Blanding, have pleaded guilty in the case and received probation plus restrictions on use of public lands.

From story by Brandon Loomis

Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter -Archaeology of the Colonial Chesapeake

A Project Archaeology workshop for upper elementary grade teachers will be held on June 27- 29, 2011. The workshop includes classroom instruction and a tour of the Smithsonian exhibit *Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17th Century Chesapeake*. Teachers will participate in one in of the largest ongoing archeological excavations in Maryland at Historic London Town and Gardens, a colonial seaport in Anne Arundel County. Participants will excavate, screen, and clean artifacts that were used by men and women, convict and indentured servants, enslaved people and others who lived in London Town.

The workshop will introduce the curriculum guide, *Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter*, in which elementary school students conduct an archeological investigation based on authentic archeological data from excavations of a 17th century earthfast house in Calvert County, Maryland. The students play the role of an archeologist as they investigate the house and grounds occupied by a tobacco planter and his family from 1690 to 1711. The students generate hypotheses about how people lived in the Chesapeake region and examine artifacts, oral history, and historic photographs to help answer their questions.

This multidisciplinary curriculum has been endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies. The curriculum is targeted for grades 3, 4, and 5 but teachers of other grades are welcome to participate. As an interdisciplinary science, archeology offers innovative and exciting opportunities to integrate math, science, and the social studies to engage youth in science and social studies education.

The workshop is sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), and Historic London Town and Gardens. The Anthropology Outreach Office, NMNH, is home to the Chesapeake regional office of Project Archaeology.

Workshop contact: Ann Kaupp, (202) 633-1917

Other educational opportunities offered by Project Archeology:

Teacher Workshop: *Intrigue of the Past*

Nashua, New Hampshire, April 1, 2011
Contact: Tanya Krajcik (603) 271-6568

Educator Workshop: *Investigating Shelter - Investigating a Plains Tipi*
Bozeman, Montana, June 13-16, 2011
Contact: Crystal Alegria (406) 994-6925

Project Archaeology Leadership Academy and Facilitator Training
Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, June 20-24, 2011
Contact: Kathy Francisco (406) 994-6727

Teacher Workshop and Facilitator Training
Hutchinson, Kansas, August 3-5, 2011
Contact: Virginia Wulfkuhle (785) 272-8681, Ext. 266

Project Archaeology Educator Field School
Virginia City, Montana, August 8-11, 2011
Contact: Crystal Alegria (406) 994-6925

Project Archaeology Online Course: *Investigating Shelter*

This eight-week online course uses archeological data to teach the basics of scientific inquiry: observation, inference, evidence, and classification. Educators will learn how to help students apply archeological concepts to investigate a shelter using maps, artifact illustrations, historic photographs, and oral histories. In the classroom, teachers can use the nationally-endorsed *Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter* curriculum to fulfill many core requirements in social studies, science, mathematics, language arts and art. Students will discover archeology and history through engaging hands-on activities that provide opportunities to reflect on citizenship, build personal ethics and character, and achieve deeper cultural understandings.

8 Weeks for 2 graduate credits, October 3, 2011

For more information or to register, go to <http://umnh.utah.edu/projectarchaeologycourse>.

Project Archaeology produces high quality educational materials for grades 3-8 that use scientific inquiry to foster understanding of past and present cultures and to improve science and social studies education. The curriculum materials are culturally relevant and designed to connect scientific inquiry to culture and history through archeology.

For more information about Project Archaeology, go to www.projectarchaeology.org

New Archeology E-Gram Feature: Civil War Commemorations

In March 2010 the NPS began celebrations to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. We are establishing a new feature in the Archeology E-Gram to provide information and links about activities to commemorate the Civil War. Each month, the E-Gram will feature information about activities such as exhibits, re-enactments, and lectures taking place. Here are some events that will take place in April:

Bell and History Days – The Victorian Internet

Monocacy National Battlefield, Monocacy, MD ([map](#)), Saturday, April 2, 2011

Ranger programs and exhibits will compare the telegraph to our modern internet and explain its role at the outbreak of the Civil War. For more information, visit [Monocacy National Battlefield](#).

Lecture Series: "Why They Fought: Reflections on the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War"
Charleston, SC ([map](#)), Friday, April 8-12, 2011, 9:00 am

Fort Sumter-Fort Moultrie Historical Trust, the Citadel, South Carolina Historical Society, and the NPS will sponsor a lecture series "Why They Fought: Reflections on the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War." For more information, visit [Lowcountry Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration](#).

Civil War Education Day at Manassas Battlefield

Manassas National Battlefield Park, Manassas, VA ([map](#)), Saturday, April 9, 2011

An education day event that will include living history portrayals of soldier and civilian life, historic weapons demonstrations, Civil War period music performances, and other activities. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/mana.

150th Anniversary at Fort Sumter: Garrison at the Fort

Charleston Harbor, SC ([map](#)), April 14-17, 2011

On April 14, 1861, the U.S. garrison surrendered and left Fort Sumter and Company B, South Carolina Artillery Battalion and the Palmetto Guard, an infantry company, moved into the fort. Re-enactors representing the units will garrison the fort, offering living history programs to visitors on each tour boat. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/fosu/planyourvisit/

Resignation of Robert E. Lee

Arlington House National Memorial, Arlington, VA ([map](#)), Saturday, April 16, 2011

A weeklong series of events, tours, and lectures focuses on Robert E. Lee's decision to leave the U.S. Army and fight for Virginia. The April 20, 7pm-10pm: Evening Program marks the exact anniversary of Lee's Resignation. For more information, visit [Arlington House National Memorial](#).

War Comes to Harpers Ferry: The Burning of the Federal Arsenal

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, WV ([map](#)), Saturday, April 16, 2011

This two day event will focus on the April 1861 secession of Virginia from the Union and the subsequent burning of the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Activities will include, living history, ranger conducted programs, and family/youth activities. For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/index.htm>

Virginia Battlefield Preservation Conference

Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Manassas, VA, April 17 – 18, 2011

Co-hosted by the Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources, NPS, and Prince William County, the conference will cover tools and methods on preserving battlefield land in Virginia. To register for the conference, go to www.dhr.virginia.gov/BattlefieldConference/battlefieldConference.html

Hidden History at the Wayside

The Wayside, 455 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742 ([map](#)) April 27, 2011, 7pm – 9pm

Sponsored by Minute Man NHP, consider how The Wayside was home to slave owners and later harbored a fugitive slave. Study letters and diaries of residents and decide for yourself who was an abolitionist and who was not. [Read More](#)

Brentsville Civil War Weekend

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Rd., Bristow, VA 20136 ([map](#))

April 30, 2011, 10am – 5pm

This program will commemorate Prince William County's decision in April of 1861 to vote and endorse Virginia's secession and the creation of the many military units from Prince William County that were formed in Brentsville. Visit www.pwcgov.org/brentsville or call 703-365-7895 for more information.

More information about Civil War commemorations can be found on the NPS 150th website <http://nps.gov/civilwar150>.

Projects in Parks: Surveillance and Control on a Plantation Landscape

By Megan Bailey, University of Maryland, College Park

Recent excavations at the site of a former plantation, *L'Hermitage*, on the grounds of Monocacy National Battlefield in Frederick, Maryland, revealed substantial evidence of slave quarters that stood on the site in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. An archeological investigation undertaken by the NPS in summer 2010 exposed several features associated with domestic structures on the historic plantation. Testing of the eighteenth and nineteenth century occupations of Best Farm uncovered features related to the enslaved population of *L'Hermitage*, including a dump, two ambiguous trench-like features, and anomalies that could represent the slave quarters.

To access this and other Projects in Parks report, go to www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/index.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 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 on the NPS Archeology Program web site.

Contact: Karen Mudar at 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.