



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## February 2012 Archeology E-Gram

### Steve Pendery Retires from NPS

NPS Archeologist Steve Pendery retired from the NPS on January 31, 2012. He has accepted a position as director of Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts. Archaeological Services specializes in all phases of CRM projects and has conducted more than 520 cultural resource management research projects in eight Northeastern states. You can reach Steve at 413-545-0916.

Steve's friends and colleagues wish him the very best in his new job.

### Becky Saleeby Retires

Becky Saleeby retired on November 30, 2011, after 23 years of exemplary service on behalf of the NPS, as an Archeologist with the Alaska Regional Office. Her most recent job was as the National Register Programs Archeologist. Becky's sense of service and dedication to partnerships, education, and furthering the field of archeology gained her great respect among her peers. She brought enthusiasm and vision to the work place each day along with a dogged perseverance. Her legacy includes a bundle of wonderfully written National Register nominations and two major landmark books on Alaskan historical archeology, *The Quest for Gold: An Overview of the National Park Service Cultural Resources Mining and Monitoring Program (CRMIM), 2000*, and *Beneath the Surface: Thirty Years of Historical Archeology in Skagway, Alaska, 2011*.

Becky's friends and colleagues wish her all the best in her retirement.

### NPS has Repository for Tree-Ring Samples

The NPS and the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research (LTRR), University of Arizona, have signed a 10-year agreement to curate NPS tree-ring samples at LTRR. The LTRR is engaged in a number of research programs, including fire history and fire ecology, multiproxy paleoclimateology, archeology, biogeography, biochemistry, and paleoecology. As part of the ongoing research program, the LTRR maintains a repository for housing the wood samples and cores that form the basis for this research.

The LTRR has a long history of working with the NPS on tree-ring projects. Bulk wood samples and tree cores from natural and cultural sites help the NPS to better understand the historical uses of and climatic and other changes to the lands it manages. Many of the samples are currently housed at the LTRR; the agreement will enhance LTRR's capabilities to provide for their preservation and enhance their research values. Likewise, NPS collections will enhance the biological and ecological diversity represented in the LTRR collections.

The agreement covers natural history and cultural tree specimens collected on any NPS lands for the purposes of tree-ring analysis. All units of the NPS will have the option of placing tree-ring collections at LTRR under this agreement.

For more information about the history of tree-ring research in the NPS, go to *Tree Ring Dating at Mesa Verde National Park* (<http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/MEVETreeRings.htm>)

### Archeologists Condemn Reality TV Shows

The Society for American Archaeology and the Society for Historic Archaeology have sent letters of protest to the National Geographic Society and the president of Spike TV and the Viacom Entertainment Group over reality TV shows that promote nonscientific digging in archeological sites. The National

Geographic Channel will air episodes of *Diggers* later this year. *Diggers* is a series featuring the activities of two treasure hunters, who travel to various locations in the United States to use metal detectors to remove metal objects from archeological sites. The television episodes, interviews that the two have given, and their website provide instructions for locating and digging in sites, and emphasize the potentially lucrative aspect of looting. Spike TV will air episodes of *American Diggers* that contains much the same content as *Diggers*.

NPS National Capital Region Archeologist Stephen Potter is alarmed that this program may trigger increased looting on public lands, particularly in the East and South, which saw most of the battles of the Civil War. Many of the Civil War battlefields, which contain much metal, are now NPS units. Metal detecting on NPS lands is illegal, but Potter feels that *Diggers* and *American Diggers* will not sufficiently emphasize the distinction between Federal and nonfederal lands, and the protection that Federal laws provide to archeological sites. Regardless of whether the sites are on private or public lands, he says, metal detecting on archeological sites for the sake of personal gain robs everyone of our national heritage.

**The Federal Archeologist's Bookshelf: Uncovering History: The Legacy of Archeological Investigations at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument** (2010) by Douglas D. Scott. It is not often that a park archeological overview and assessment deserves a wider audience than NPS employees, but such is the case for *Uncovering History*, by Douglas Scott. Scott has provided historical background and context for archeological and relic hunting activities at the Battle of Little Bighorn, in eastern Montana, that illuminates the development of metal detecting as a key element in battlefield archeology. The report "is intended to pull together the story of how the battle's physical evidence came to be regarded...as artifacts and data that can aid in understanding the events of the past..." (Scott 2010:1).

The Little Bighorn Battlefield, where Army forces led by George Armstrong Custer were defeated by Lakota and Cheyenne Indians in 1876, became a focal point, particularly after World War II, for the developing discipline of battlefield archeology. Prior to the Second World War, almost all of the historic archeological research occurred in the east, focusing on colonial sites. The adaptation of metal detectors for peacetime use set the stage for cooperation between historians and archeologists, and partnerships between archeologists and avocational metal detecting clubs, that changed the way that battlefield research was conducted. NPS staff Don Rickey and Jesse Vaughn began using metal detectors at the Little Bighorn Battlefield in 1956. NPS archeologist Robert Bray, who worked at the Little Bighorn Battlefield in the late 1950s, was one of the few archeologists of his era to advocate the use of metal detectors in studying historic sites. He went on to employ metal detecting methods developed at the battlefield at many other historic sites and to teach students these fieldwork techniques.

The most intense period of archeological investigation of the battlefield occurred after the range fires of 1983. Archeologists took advantage of the lack of vegetation to employ metal detector survey across the battlefield and to conduct excavations in previously inaccessible areas, such as shrub-choked ravines. Informal partnerships with groups and individuals facilitated the metal-detecting survey of all 765 acres of the monument, and 1200 acres outside of the monument on which the activities of the 1876 battle took place. Between 1984 and 2005, 271 volunteers contributed over 12,000 hours to various archeological projects, many supervised or coordinated by Richard Fox. These research projects contributed to the development of an archeological model of battlefield behavior that has become an internationally recognized standard for method and theory of battlefield and conflict archeology.

*Uncovering History* will probably not educate the reader about events in the Battle of the Little Bighorn; it provides a minimal historical overview, assuming that the reader is already conversant with the battle's events. An overview map of the park with key landmarks of the battle clearly labeled would aid in interpretation of the many aerial photos and schematic maps. Those interested in battle interpretation should consult *Archaeological Perspectives on the Battle of the Little Bighorn* (by Fox et al. 1989).

What *Uncovering History* does do, however, is connect archeological finds to *specific* events within the battle, providing examples and insights into the ways that these types of data are used to verify, refute, and refine our history-based knowledge. The events, while not considered in a chronological context, provide wonderful examples of the ways that battlefield archeology questions, reinforces, and cross-fertilizes the historical perspective, sometimes in unexpected ways.

Battlefield archeology provides a context for consideration of Native American oral histories of the battle, at points more accurate than traditionally accepted accounts. Artifact analysis was able to refute an argument that Army guns were inadequate, causing Army troops to lose the battle (the guns did jam, but Indians had the same guns), and that Custer's movements on the battlefield could be determined by locations of brass cartridge cases (other people used brass cartridge cases, too).

The chapter on analyses of human (and horse) bones focused on identification of individuals from the battlefield, as much forensic archeology does at present, and the history of interment and disinterment. The amount of burial and re-burial that went on at the battlefield was surprising, and difficult to sort out if not for archeology. Artifacts found with the human remains were often key elements to identify or refute individual identities.

The report acknowledges that the Battle of the Little Bighorn was a significant symbolic event for Native Americans as well as European Americans and discusses the placement of rock cairns commemorating fallen Cheyenne and Lakota warriors. Geomorphological and comparison with ethnographically known commemorative cairns identified a class of natural formations that were erroneously identified as commemorations. *Uncovering History* ends with a summary of the contributions of the research to date and recommendations for further work that set high standards for other reports.

### **Submerged Cultural Resources Law Enforcement Training**

This four-day class provides training on all aspects of the investigation and prosecution of archeological crimes involving submerged cultural resources. Topics covered include an overview of submerged cultural resource crime and trafficking network; ARPA and other relevant Federal statutes; submerged cultural resource crime scene investigation; archeological damage assessments; search warrant preparation; and case studies. Instructors in the class are national experts in this area of law enforcement.

Target audiences include LE officers, archeologists, and prosecuting attorneys in Federal, State, and local government agencies. Participants should be assigned to management units or jurisdictions that include submerged cultural resources.

The training will be held at Biscayne National Park March 12-15, 2012. Applicants can register through DOI Learn at <http://www.doi.gov/index.cfm>. The course code is NPS-CRS2400, and the tuition is free.

### **Archeological Resources Protection Training Program**

The Archeological Resources Protection Training Program was developed jointly by FLETC, USFS, and NPS to provide training in archeological investigation and prosecution of terrestrial archeological resource crimes. Students participate in integrated lectures and discussions, but are separated for specialized law enforcement training to archeologists, and archeological training to law enforcement officers. The class concludes with a practical exercise in which participants work as a team to investigate and document a crime scene. Attendees will gather physical evidence, write search warrants, prepare damage assessments, and provide testimony in a court room scenario.

Enrollment is limited to full-time law enforcement officers and archeologists employed by Federal, State, or local governments. The training will be held at New River Gorge National River March 5-9, 2012, and April 2-6, 2012, at a location to be announced.

For further information, send an e-mail message of inquiry to [fletc-iod-fsibranch@dhs.gov](mailto:fletc-iod-fsibranch@dhs.gov).

### **Archeological Damage Assessment Methods**

Archeological Damage Investigation & Assessment (the new business name for Martin McAllister's firm) will offer Archeological Damage Assessment Methods in Tempe, Arizona, March 26 through March 30, 2012. The class will be hosted by Northland Research, Inc.

Potential criminal or civil prosecutions for violations of laws prohibiting unauthorized damage to archeological sites require archeological damage assessments. These assessments also are critically important in sentencing for archeological violations. Archeologists who may be called upon to provide assistance in archeological violation cases must be prepared to assess damages according to established legal and professional standards for these assessments. This class provides training on all aspects of the damage assessment process. The primary instructor for the class is ADIA Archeologist Martin McAllister.

This class is open to all professional archeologists. (Law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys, and agency managers who have an interest in archeological damage assessment may sit in on the class during the final two days with no tuition fee.)

The class will be held at the Northland Research, Inc. office, 1865 E. Third Street, Tempe, Arizona. The telephone number of this office is 480-894-0020. The registration deadline for the class is COB March 2, 2012. To register for the class, contact McAllister, phone: 406-239-1874. The class tuition fee is \$850.

### **Submerged Cultural Resources Awareness Workshop at SAA Meeting in Memphis**

The Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology will hold a Submerged Cultural Resources Awareness Workshop, to be held on April 18, 2012, from 9am to 5pm at the SAA annual conference in Memphis, TN. This workshop is specifically designed to introduce terrestrial archeologists, land managers, and regulatory agencies to basic concepts in underwater archeology in order to knowledgeably address and respond to underwater cultural resource issues.

Topics to be covered include understanding geophysical survey methods, exploration of public outreach and interpretation strategies, discussion of report requirements and personnel qualifications, examination of submerged cultural resources legislation, and review of case studies and best practices.

You can register for this workshop as part of your online advanced registration:  
<https://ecommerce.saa.org/saa/source/meetings/meetingshome.cfm?section=events> Advance registration rates will end on 2012/3/17 3:00 AM (EST).

For more information about the workshop, e-mail [info@acuaonline.org](mailto:info@acuaonline.org) or go to Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology [www.acuaonline.org](http://www.acuaonline.org)

### **Petrographic Analysis for Conservation Workshop**

The NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) and The Center for Historic Architecture and Design (CHAD), School for Public Policy and Administration, University of Delaware will host a two-day hands-on workshop on polarized light microscopy for the study of stone and ceramic cultural materials. Polarized light microscopy of stone and ceramics, thin-section petrography, is a crucial tool for the study of objects and building materials. The technique is used to identify materials and their sources, understand production technology and object functions, study deterioration mechanisms, and assess preservation strategies and conservation treatments.

The workshop include introduction to polarized light microscopy for identifying minerals, analysis of cultural materials made of stone (igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic) and analysis of pottery, terracotta sculptures, bricks, tiles, and clay core materials from bronze castings. The lead instructor for the workshop is Chandra L. Reedy, CHAD.

The workshop will be held March 27-28, 2012, at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The cost of the workshop is \$299. Participants are responsible for their own travel, housing, and meals. Participants, however, are strongly urged to stay on-site at NCTC. Workshop hotel costs, which include all meals, are \$129 per night for single room, plus tax. Registration is open through March 6, 2012, at <http://ncptt.nps.gov/petrographic-analysis-for-conservation/>

**Projects in Parks:** is taking a break this month.

*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:** Karen Mudar at [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.