



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## May 2012 Archeology E-Gram

### SAA Honors Former NPS Archeology Program Employee Bennie Keel

The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) has awarded Bennie C. Keel the 2012 SAA Lifetime Achievement Award, for his service to archeology. Keel was the Interior Departmental Consulting Archeologist (DCA) from 1980 to 1990. Coterminous with his DCA service, Keel also served eight years as the NPS Assistant Director of Archeology and three years as Chief of the Interagency Archeological Services Division.

In these capacities, Keel shaped cultural resource management in the U.S. He helped write the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and regulations, the Abandoned Shipwreck Act, and the regulation for the Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections. Keel helped craft the first national regulations for burials involving Federal action or public lands, and he supervised the development of the National Archeological Database (NADB) and the NPS Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS). After leaving Washington, DC, Keel was the NPS Southeast Regional Archeologist and, until retirement, Director of the NPS Southeast Archeological Center.

Keel played a major role in advocating for, planning, and managing several major archeological projects, including the FAI-270 project, Illinois; the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway project, Alabama/Mississippi; the Richard B. Russell Reservoir project, Georgia/South Carolina; and the Ravensford tract project on the Cherokee Reservation, North Carolina. His contributions to Southeastern archeology made him a leading expert in Cherokee and North Carolina archeology. Keel's passion for public archeology, for preservation of America's cultural heritage, and for archeological professionalism is a model for future generations. In each of these areas, his impacts will continue to affect American archeology in profound ways.



Bennie Keel in 2001

### NPS NCPTT Awards Funding for Three Archeology Projects

The NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) announced the awarding of \$235,500 in 11 Federal competitive preservation technology and training grants. Three grants went to archeology projects. The NPS received 42 complete applications for funding, which underwent peer review and a national panel review. The funded archeology awardees are:

- Clemson University, which will use the funding to investigate the applicability of ion-exchange technology for archeological iron conservation (\$24,000);
- The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, which will use the funds to assess mechanical scanning sonar in the documentation of submerged cultural resources (\$25,000);
- Michigan Technological University, which will use the funding to develop new methods to use supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> and functional polymers in the conservation of industrial heritage (\$25,000).

Over 30% of the total funding was awarded to archeological projects. The NPS awards the NCPTT grants under Title IV of the National Historic Preservation Act.

### **Chaco Culture National Historical Park Dedicates New Visitor Center**

On April 26, 2012, Chaco Culture NHP dedicated a new visitor center, celebrated 25 years as a World Heritage Site, and launched the new Chaco Culture National Historical Park Quarter. The event was celebrated with singing by the Apache Elementary School Honor Choir, from Farmington, New Mexico, and the La Vida Mission School, Lake Valley, New Mexico; and presentations from archeologists Steve Lekson, David Stuart, Lynne Sebastian, Carla Van West, and Jane Kolber.

Chaco Culture NHP is the first World Heritage site to be commemorated in the America the Beautiful series of quarters. The commemorative quarter depicts a view to the west of two elevated kivas that are part of the Chetro Ketl Complex, the north wall of Chetro Ketl, and the north wall of the canyon.

Other national parks commemorated in the series include Hot Springs NP, Yellowstone NP, Yosemite NP, Grand Canyon NP, Gettysburg NMP, Glacier NP, Olympic NP, Vicksburg NMP, and Chickasaw NRA.



### **Effects of Fire on Cultural Resources and Archaeology Published**

The Interagency Joint Fire Science Program has announced that *Effects of Fire on Cultural Resources and Archaeology* is now available. This compendium is a guide to fuels, fire behavior, and fire effects to inform decision making when protecting cultural resources during fuels treatment, restoration projects, and wildfire suppression. Several articles outline methods available to evaluate and mitigate risks. A synthesis of fire effects is provided for ceramics, lithics, rock art, historic-period artifacts/materials, and below-ground features. Another study emphasizes the need to actively involve Native people in the development of collaborative management plans.

This is the final installment in *Wildland Fire in Ecosystems*, also known as the Rainbow Series. To download a copy of the volume, go to [www.firescience.gov/JFSP\\_rainbow\\_series.cfm](http://www.firescience.gov/JFSP_rainbow_series.cfm). Call 970-498-1392 to request a hard copy.

### **Webinar on Writing Section 8 (National Significance) Nominations for Archeological Properties**

Have you ever wondered what the difference was between archeological sites of national significance for the National Register versus archeological sites of national significance for designation as a National Historic Landmarks (NHL)? Interested in evaluating an archeological property for potential NHL status or in writing an NHL nomination for an archeological property? Then *Writing Section 8 for Criterion 6: Archeology* is for you. The National Historic Landmark Program will air the webinar on July 10, 2012, from 1:00-3:00 pm EDT. Instruction will be provided on the required steps for becoming an NHL, using the language of Criterion 6 (the criterion used most often for nominating archeological properties as NHLs), making the argument for national significance for archeological properties, developing a national comparative context, an historic context and an archeological context (and the differences between these

contexts), and presenting a research design of national significance needed to support the argument for NHL Criterion 6 in a nomination.

To register for the webinar, go to the NHL website at <http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/>.  
Contact: Erika Martin Seibert, (202)354-2217

### **President Obama Signs Proclamation Designating Fort Ord National Monument**

President Obama has signed a Proclamation under the Antiquities Act to designate Federal lands within the former Fort Ord, California, as a national monument. First exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower NM in Wyoming, the authority of the Antiquities Act has been used by 16 presidents since 1906 to protect unique natural and historic features in America. President Obama first used the Antiquities Act in November 2011 to designate Fort Monroe NM. Fort Monroe is a former Army post integral to the history of slavery, the Civil War, and the U.S. military.

Nearly two and a half centuries ago, the Fort Ord area was traversed by settlers led by Spanish Lieutenant-Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, whose diaries were used to identify the route that became the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The area's open landscape owes its undeveloped state largely to its role as a U.S. Army facility. From World War I through the early 1990s, the rugged terrain served as a military training ground for as many as a million and a half soldiers.



Vista at Fort Ord NM

Today, Fort Ord provides recreational opportunities to over 100,000 visitors annually, offering 86 miles of trails. The area is an economic engine for neighboring communities and serves as a key venue for the annual Sea Otter Classic, one of the largest bicycling events in the world. Fort Ord NM will be managed by the BLM, which currently manages approximately 7,200 acres. The Army will transfer an additional 7,450 acres to the monument.

### **Comments Requested on Traditional Cultural Properties and Native American Landscapes**

Through October 31, 2012, the NPS is soliciting comments and recommendations from its tribal, national, state, and local historic preservation partners, NPS regional offices and parks, other Federal agencies, and the public at large regarding updating National Register (NR) Program guidance for identifying, evaluating, and documenting properties as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) and/or Native American landscapes.

With the 1990 release of National Register Bulletin 38, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties*, the NPS clarified a broader scope of properties that could be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NR) for their significance as Traditional Cultural Properties, and provided written guidance on working with these properties. The policy direction was followed by the provision in the 1992 amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act stating: "Properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization may be determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register."

While Bulletin 38 remains an essential, basic resource, the number of requests for additional assistance in this regard has increased significantly. Updated, published guidance on the following topics is proposed: what constitutes a “traditional” community; “continuity of use” by a traditional community; evolving uses of resources by a traditional community; multiple lines of documentary evidence; broad ethnographic landscapes; property boundaries; and resource integrity. The NPS requests suggestions on any other “user-identified” TCP-related issues, and requests comments and recommendations that address the development of guidance related to identifying, evaluating, and documenting NR-eligible Native American landscapes.

NPS requests that comments and recommendations related to the issues outlined above be forwarded via email to [nr\\_info@nps.gov](mailto:nr_info@nps.gov). Respondents should identify their submission as a “TCP/NAL Comment” in the email subject box. Responses submitted via email will be posted beginning the first week of June 2012, on the NR website located at [www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/guidance/TCP\\_comments.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/guidance/TCP_comments.htm). Respondents who do not want their names and/or e-mail addresses posted on the NR website along with their comments, or who do not want their comments published at all, should clearly indicate that preference in their e-mail.

#### **Park Science Publishes Articles on Cultural Resources Management in Wilderness Areas**

The Winter 2011-2012 issue of *Park Science*, devoted to wilderness stewardship and science, includes several articles that examine cultural resources stewardship and contributions to the monitoring and assessment framework for wilderness character. “Integrating cultural resources and wilderness character” describes how, subsumed under the category of “Other,” cultural resources are the fifth quality of wilderness character, along with the natural, untrammeled, undeveloped, and opportunities for solitude qualities. The article closes with three recommendations to help parks address managing cultural resources in wilderness areas.

A short article about monitoring provides more context about assessing cultural resource contributions to the qualities of wilderness character. “A database application for wilderness character monitoring” describes the efforts by national parks to track and report wilderness character. Diverging from the initial recommendations in “Keeping it Wild: An Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System,” the NPS specifically recognizes cultural resources as a fifth quality of wilderness character and included the category in the database for monitoring.



Historic Cemetery at Apostle Islands National  
Lakeshore Wilderness

Cultural resources are also considered in “Using wilderness character to improve wilderness stewardship.” This article describes how understanding wilderness character, including cultural resources, can lead to improved communication with the public, and making more informed decisions about wilderness planning, management, and monitoring.

“Remote sensing of heritage resources for research and management” provides an example of the use of magnetometry, ground-penetrating radar, and satellite imagery, to collect information about archeological sites without excavation to preserve wilderness character. Another article, “Scientific study and enduring wilderness” reminds us that research implementation has to be carefully considered in order to preserve wilderness character.

To read this and other issues of Park Science, go to <http://nature.nps.gov/parkscience/>.

In concert with the recent efforts to develop rubrics for measuring wilderness character, the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center has developed a module on managing cultural resources in wilderness: “Managing Cultural Resources in Wilderness- Fundamentals, Inventory and Monitoring, and Evaluating Scientific Proposals.” The courses are free and can be taken at any time.

For more information about the online courses, go to [www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=elearning](http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=elearning)

**Teaching with Archeology: Spotlight on National Center for Preservation Technology and Training**

The NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) gives archeologists, preservationists, historians, and educators a window onto the future of archeology and preservation. Based on the Northwestern State University campus in Natchitoches, Louisiana, the center focuses on advancing the application of science and technology in the preservation realm.

To learn about site excavation and artifact preservation, check out the NCPTT podcasts. These 10-15 minute videos introduce new field technologies. Episode 9, for instance, highlights digital survey methods. Episode 13 introduces 3-D digital rock art preservation, and Episode 14 discusses techniques for drying wood from shipwrecks. Although some videos assume a basic knowledge of the field, most are accessible to all levels of understanding. The most recent podcast (Episode 34), posted in October 2011, “Earthwork Stability Research at Poverty Point?” introduces Diana Greenlee and follows her NCPTT grant-funded research studying dendrogeomorphology (study of tree-rings relating to changes in landscape slope) to investigate earthwork stability. The videos are available on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/user/ncptt](http://www.youtube.com/user/ncptt); five are presented in Spanish as well.

The NCPTT supplements the podcast lessons with articles that range from sustainability and “green” preservation to disaster preparation. All are focused on promoting science and technology in the preservation of historical and archeological artifacts and heritage. A recently posted article discusses a new technique developed by Shannon Hodge that utilizes computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD-CAM) to construct digital and physical recreations of dental patterns from excavated human remains for study. The full report can be found at [ncptt.nps.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012-01.pdf](http://ncptt.nps.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012-01.pdf).

The NCPTT also provides teachers with classroom resources to investigate history through conservation and preservation–geared lessons. The Preservation Arts, an interdisciplinary academic curriculum for secondary school students, provides a sequence of technical study over a four year period. Lessons on the website provide introductory materials on historic preservation and cover topics such as landmark laws, architectural styles, and neighborhood identity and formation. Lessons for field trips, technology courses, and readings are also available. The materials can be incorporated into a high school social studies or science course to exemplify real world applications of what students are studying.

Visit the NCPTT homepage at <http://ncptt.nps.gov/> for on new technological applications, educational videos, and inspiration for your next preservation project.

### **Antiquities Smuggler Sentenced**

On May 7, 2012, Robert Perez was sentenced for a felony smuggling violation in US District Court in Los Angeles. Between June and December 2002, Perez sold \$3,810 in pre-Columbian artifacts from El Salvador, and artifacts and cave features from Thailand to undercover NPS and FWS agents. All of these items were smuggled into the U.S. by Perez after having been looted in their countries of origin. At the sentencing hearing, Perez was sentenced to six months of home detention, three years of probation and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine.

The sentencing stemmed from “Operation Antiquity” a five-year-long investigation focusing on looting, importation, sale and tax fraud violations related to cultural items from the U.S. and other countries. Participating along with the NPS in this investigative effort are the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. Additional cases against other entities are pending.

*By Todd Swain, Special Agent*

### **FLETC Offers Archeological Resources Protection Training Program**

Archeological Resources Protection Training will be presented by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at Buffalo National River, Arkansas, August 6-10, 2012. The course provides training in all aspects of an archeological investigation and in the subsequent prosecution of crimes. This 37-hour course is taught by nationally-recognized subject matter experts in the fields of law enforcement, archeology, and law. Enrollment is limited to Federal or State law enforcement officers, archeologists and prosecutors.

For registration information, please contact Michael Elmore at 912-554-2848. For course information, contact FLETC coordinator Charles Louke at 912-280-5188. Registration closes on July 20, 2012.

### **Projects in Parks: The Workers Who Built the C&O Canal**

*by Jason Shellenhamer, edited by Christine Oricchio*

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is one of the most intact surviving examples of the American canal-building era, stretching 185 miles from Washington, D.C. to Cumberland, Maryland. The canal was in operation 1830-1921, transporting coal, mail, and farm products, among other goods. Information about the lives of the workers that constructed the canal adds another dimension to the C&O Canal’s historical significance. In 2011, The Louis Berger Group, completed a nine-year archeological survey of the canal to locate canal worker campsites and provide a more complete narrative of the people who built the canal.



Building the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal

To read the full report, go to [www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npsites/cnoCanalWorkers.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npsites/cnoCanalWorkers.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:** 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.