



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## September 2016 Archeology E-Gram

### NPS NEWS

#### **New Superintendent Named for Anacostia Park, Historic Homes and Capitol Hill Parks**

Tara Morrison will become the next superintendent of National Capital Parks – East. Morrison began her NPS career as an archeology intern in Washington, D.C. She was a park ranger at Boston African American NHS, and the first superintendent of African Burial Ground NM, New York City. There, Morrison worked with the African descendant community and led development of the visitor center. Since 2011, Morrison has served as superintendent of Rock Creek Park.



Morrison received a BS in African American studies from Northeastern University and a graduate certificate in museum management from the University of South Carolina, where she completed graduate coursework in anthropology with a concentration in historical archeology. Morrison will begin her new position December 7, 2016.

#### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act Toolkit**

The National Historic Preservation Act was signed into law October 15, 1966, by Lyndon B. Johnson. To commemorate the anniversary, the NPS has created a NHPA50 Tool-Kit. The toolkit contains a discussion guide, social media plan, and a Jr. Ranger booklet (also shipped to all parks earlier in the year).

Additionally, a grassroots social media movement is developing using the hashtag **#hugyourhistory**. On or around October 15, national park staff are encouraged to post to their social media pages a photo of someone hugging a cultural resource that relates to the NHPA. This could be a historic building, a historic landmark, or maybe a maintenance staff person hugging the archeologist monitoring their work as part of Section 106. Gently hug a museum object or battlefield monument. Attempt to hug your trowel without poking your eye out. Stop by your local SHPO or THPO and give them a hug (they probably need it!). The possibilities are endless!

To download the toolkit, go to <https://www.nps.gov/articles/hispresjuniorrranger.htm>

**Contact:** Kelly Clark, (305) 296-5578 or (305) 224-4226

#### **Emily Button Kambic Joins National Capital Region**

Emily Button Kambic, an American Council of Learned Societies Fellow, has joined the NPS National Capital Region (NCR) Office of Resource Stewardship and Science for a two-year fellowship. She will be the Cultural Resources Public Outreach Coordinator. Kambic will oversee efforts to share cultural resource research and information and assist expanding collaboration between NCR and local colleges and universities, and with the Chesapeake Watershed CESU Coordinator.



Kambic's research interests focus on the formation of multicultural American communities in the 19<sup>th</sup> century American whaling industry. Her doctoral dissertation from Brown University focused on Native American and African American whaling families in Sag Harbor, NY, exploring strategies of household economic survival, cross-cultural

community building, and ethnic differentiation. Her MA research addressed the cultural biographies of artifacts from Arctic indigenous whaling communities in American museums.

The American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellows program provides scholars in the humanities and social sciences with experience in the government and nonprofit sectors. Kambic is one of twenty scholars selected in 2016 to take up a two-year, full-time position at a nonprofit and government organization across the United States.

### **Urban Archeology Corps Program in Lawrence, Massachusetts**

Eight students ages 16 -17 participated in the Urban Archeology Corps (UAC) Program in Lawrence, Massachusetts, this summer. To better understand how residents of Lawrence interact with their city today, the students conducted interviews and a surface survey of trash in nearby Misserville State Park. They also conducted archival research of the history of immigrant workers in the local mills.

Students visited Saugus Ironworks NHS, Lowell NHP, and Boston African American NHS. Many of them had never visited a national park. Learning about the industrial past and history of immigrants of Lawrence encouraged students to question how the image of Lawrence evolved over time. As many of the students who participated are first and second generation immigrants in this heavily Latino immigrant city, this question resonated both intellectually and personally.

Students chose art forms to share and interpret their research for a broader audience. They developed an interpretive art piece and dance, a slam poem, an interactive poster presentation, and a picture chapter scrapbook to share during a public event on August 12, 2016. The program was made possible through a partnership with the NPS Northeast Regional Office and Washington Office; and Groundwork Lawrence.

The Urban Archeology Corps (UAC) engages youth aged 16-25 in local urban archeological projects.



Through their work experience with the UAC, participants become familiar with the National Park System, local parks, and archeology; and acquire important professional skills. Now in its fifth year nationally, the UAC introduces youth to the archeological process including excavation, historic preservation, research, cataloguing, interpretation, and civic engagement; and instructs participants in the importance of stewardship and public preservation. Youth are introduced to new career paths and learn

important professional and academic skills, while utilizing digital technologies to create products that provide tangible demonstrations of the value of the program.

### **Friends Group Receives Award from National Park Service for Archeology Project**

A project to find and study the site of the Parker's Revenge Battle in Minute Man NHP was one of 20 projects nationwide to receive the 2016 NPS Director's Partnership Award. The Friends of Minute Man NHP who worked with NPS staff, the Lexington Minute Men Association and numerous individuals during a multi-year project discovered the location of the second skirmish of the Lexington militia led by Capt. John Parker and the British Army on the first day of the American Revolution.

NPS Jon Jarvis honored the Friends of Minute Man, stating that "through the Parker's Revenge Project, Friends of Minute Man led collaborative efforts to research, map, interpret, and re-create the site of an important battle that occurred during the opening days of the American Revolution. Their financial and volunteer support to Minute Man National Historical Park resulted in a large-scale archival and archeological analysis of the site, discovery and analyses of significant artifacts, and a deeper understanding of a pivotal battle and its impact on all that would come to transpire."

Project archeologist Margaret Watters of the NPS Northeast Region Archeology Program has given 13 public talks on the project to date.

*By Caitlyn Kelleher, Wicked Local*

### **National Museum of African American History and Culture Opens in Washington DC**

On September 24, 2016, President Obama inaugurated the National Museum of African American History and Culture. It is the newest of the 13 museums on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The handsome building stands at the corner of Constitution and 15<sup>th</sup> St.

Among the NPS attendees was Betty Soskin, the oldest currently employed National Park Ranger. She celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, on September 22, with a talk to a group of school children at the Main Interior Building. Her birthday is the same date that President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation (although it did not go into effect until January of the following year). Soskin shared that her great-grandmother, who was born in 1845, was a slave and that she lived until Soskin was in her 20s. Everyone in the room, therefore, was one degree of separation away from a chapter of American history that continues to resonate in current events.

The new museum reminds us that American history is incomplete without Black history. It is open 364 days each year. Regular hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Although free, a timed pass is required for entry.

To learn more, go to <https://nmaahc.si.edu/>

*By Karen Mudar*

### **New Mammoth Discovered at Channel Islands National Park**

A research team of NPS paleontologists and archeologists and staff from Bugbee's Mammoth Site, Hot Springs, SD have discovered an intact – and surprisingly large – mammoth skull at Channel Islands NP that may offer clues both to the evolution of the Ice Age mammal and human migration into North America.



The USGS have dated a charcoal sample found near the skull to 13,000 BP, a time when the only mammoth species on the island was the pygmy mammoth. Despite remarkably preservation, scientists were not able to easily classify the skull, it being too large for a pygmy mammoth and too small for a Columbian mammoth. The 14-foot Columbian mammoth

migrated to North America 1.5 million years ago, and then to the Channel Islands during the past two ice ages. After the ice age ended, rising seas isolated the island population, which evolved into the 6-foot pygmy mammoth. The discovery of the skull may shed new light on mammoth adaptation to small isolated islands.

The date also places the mammoth and Arlington man, thought to be the oldest human remains in North America, on the island at approximately the same time. A debate over whether humans caused the mammoths' extinction has been ongoing in the scientific community, and a finding of man and mammoth in close proximity will add to the discussion.

### **Suicide Awareness Month**

September is Suicide Awareness Month. Suicide does not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, background, or profession. A number of archeologists who have made seminal contributions to the field have taken their own life, including V. Gordon Childe. It is the third leading cause of death among young adults.

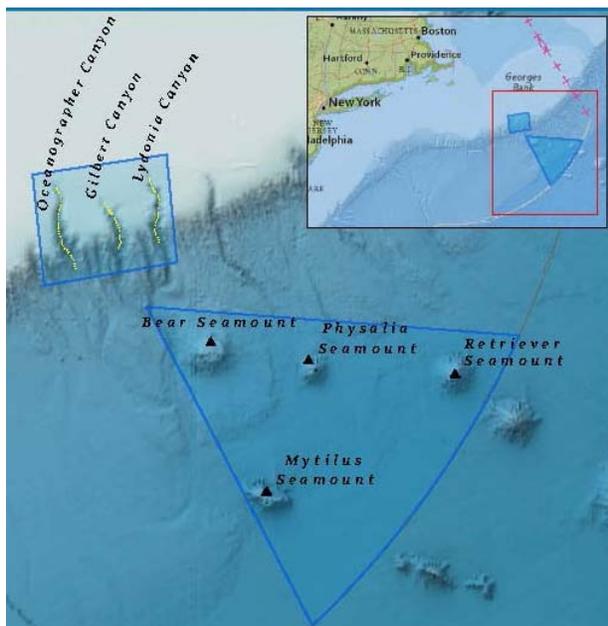
The NPS Employee Wellness Program Office of Risk Management encourages everyone to have a conversation to bring this hidden topic into the light. These conversations are critical to eliminate the negative stigma surrounding suicide and help those in need realize they are supported and know where they can go for help. The program goal is to lose no more colleagues to suicide; it will take everyone's efforts to realize this goal. Talk to your colleagues and be aware of the danger signs. Suicide affects family, friends, and colleagues, whose lives are diminished by every loss.



### **FEDERAL NEWS**

#### **President Obama Creates the Atlantic's First Marine National Monument**

President Obama created the Atlantic's first marine national monument September 15, 2016, using the Antiquities Act. The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument consists of nearly 5,000 square miles of underwater canyons and mountains 130 miles off the southeast coast of Cape Cod.



The designation carries a ban on commercial fishing, mining and drilling, though a seven-year exception will occur for the lobster and red crab industries. Recreational fishing will be allowed within the monument.

In all, the Atlantic Ocean monument will include three underwater canyons deeper than the Grand Canyon and four underwater mountains. It is home to such protected species as the sperm, fin and sei whales, and endangered Kemp's Ridley turtles. Species of coral found nowhere else on earth will also be protected.

The new protected area is intended to ameliorate dangerous climate changes, ocean dead zones and

unsustainable fishing practices. More than 20 countries also announced plans to create their own marine protected areas.

## **GRANTS AND TRAINING**

### **2017 Albright-Wirth Grant Application Period Now Open**

The application period for 2017 Albright-Wirth Grants is now open. To be eligible for Albright-Wirth Grant funds, an NPS employee may be from any career field, grade level, or geographic location. Applicants must be a NPS employee (permanent, full or part-time, seasonal, temporary, and term are all accepted), have not received a grant for the previous three funding cycles, and have at least three (3) cumulative years of NPS work experience by September 4, 2016.

The Horace M. Albright-Conrad L. Wirth Grant Program annually awards funding for personal and career development projects to NPS employees. The program is funded by the National Park Foundation and administered by the NPS WASO, Leadership Development Group. Last year over \$98,000 in award funding was distributed to 25 grant recipients.

Applications received after October 20, 2016 will not be considered. Applications will only be accepted through <http://share.nps.gov/awg>.

**Contact:** Lisa Matarazzo ([lisa\\_matarazzo@nps.gov](mailto:lisa_matarazzo@nps.gov)).

### **Advisory Council Offers Training**

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Office of Federal Agency Programs has opened registration for Fall 2016 Section 106 Webinar Series. Training includes the beginning level "Defining the Area of Potential Effects," the new intermediate level program on "Preservation Compliance and Property Disposal," and the advanced level "Overview of Program Alternatives."

A small group format of 25 participants allows for student interaction with colleagues and the instructor. Intermediate level programs assume basic familiarity with the Section 106 review process, while advanced topics are designed for experienced users of the regulations. ACHP staff instructors lead these hour-long learning experiences.

A complete list of course dates, program descriptions, and registration instructions are posted on [www.achp.gov/sec106webinar.html](http://www.achp.gov/sec106webinar.html).

Spaces remain in fall offerings of the ACHP classroom courses for those seeking more comprehensive Section 106 training. "Section 106 Essentials" will be offered in Washington, DC on October 4-5 and in Houston, Texas on November 15-16 (an Allied Event with NTHP PastForward Conference).

Course details and the full season calendar are available at [www.achp.gov/106select.html](http://www.achp.gov/106select.html).

**Contact:** Reid Nelson, [webinar@achp.gov](mailto:webinar@achp.gov).

## **SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: Giant Hail Killed More than 200 in Himalayas**

For decades the skeletal remains of more than 200 people, discovered in 1942 close to the glacial Roopkund Lake in the remote Himalayan Gahrwal region, have puzzled historians, scientists and

archeologists. Were they soldiers killed in battle, royal pilgrims who lost their way and succumbed to hypothermia, or Tibetan traders who died of a mysterious illness? Roopkund is a high altitude glacial lake in the Uttarakhand state of India. It lies in the lap of Trishul massif and is famous for the hundreds of human skeletons found at the edge of the lake. The area is uninhabited, in the Himalayas at an altitude of 16,499 feet.

The first forensic investigation of one of the area's most enduring mysteries has concluded that hundreds of pilgrims - whose frozen corpses are being disgorged from ice high in the mountain - were killed by one of the most lethal hailstorms in history.

Scientists have discovered that they date from the 9th century CE, and believe that they died from sharp blows to their skulls, almost certainly by giant hailstones. "We were amazed by what we found," said Pramod Joglekar, a bio-archeologist at Deccan College, Pune, who was among the team who visited the site 16,500ft above sea level. "In addition to skeletons, we discovered bodies with the flesh intact, perfectly preserved in the icy ground. We could see their hair and fingernails as well as pieces of clothing."

The most startling discovery was that many of those who died suffered fractured skulls. "We retrieved a number of skulls which showed short, deep cracks," said Subhash Walimbe, a physical anthropologist at the college. "These were caused not by a landslide or an avalanche but by blunt, round objects about the size of cricket balls."

The team concluded that hailstones were the most likely cause of the injuries after consulting Himalayan historians and meteorological records. Wolfgang Sax, an anthropologist at Heidelberg University, cited a traditional song among Himalayan women that describes a goddess so enraged at outsiders who defiled her mountain sanctuary that she rained death upon them by flinging hailstones "hard as iron."

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the heaviest hailstones on record weighed up to 2.2lb and killed 92 people in Bangladesh in 1986. The team believes that those who died at Roopkund were caught in a similar hailstorm from which they were unable to find cover. The balls of ice would have been falling at more than 100 mph, killing some victims instantly. Others would have fallen, stunned and injured, and died soon afterwards of hypothermia.

"The only plausible explanation for so many people sustaining such similar injuries at the same time is something that fell from the sky," said Walimbe. "The injuries were all to the top of the skull and not to other bones in the body, so they must have come from above. Our view is that death was caused by extremely large hailstones."

The scientists found glass bangles, indicating the presence of women, in addition to a ring, spear, leather shoes and bamboo staves. They estimate that as many as 600 bodies may still be buried in snow and ice by the lake. Bone samples collected at the site established the date of death as AD 850.

The team has yet to resolve the identity of the nomads. DNA from tissue samples suggested that the group was closely related. One match pointed to a community of high-caste Brahmins in central India. The investigators agreed that the victims were Hindu pilgrims from the plains, rather than the mountains, because of their large size and good health.

*From story by David Orr, 2004, Telegraph*

**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 website.

**Contact:** Karen Mudar at [dca@nps.gov](mailto:dca@nps.gov) to contribute news items and to subscribe.