



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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NPS NEWS

Passing of Retired NPS Archeologist Larry Aten

Lawrence Edward Aten, archeologist and innovative leader of archeology and historic preservation programs at the National Park Service, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on June 11, 2019, due to complications from Parkinson's disease. He was 79.

Born in Jamesburg, New Jersey, his family moved to DeLand, Florida when Aten was 12. Working on an archeological crew investigating Tick Island in the St. Johns River during his teen years sparked an interest in archeology. After high school, Aten spent three years in the Army in Korea and Japan as a petroleum technician. This led to an interest in petroleum geology and a B.S. in geology from the University of Houston. He earned a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Texas, Austin.

In 1972, NPS Archeology Division Chief Rex Wilson recruited Aten to implement Executive Order #11593 - *Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment*. From 1983 to 1994, as deputy chief of the Interagency Archeological Services Division, he developed the federal salvage archeology program. He established public policy and provided oversight for the more than \$30 million annual appropriations to the Historic Preservation Fund, the National Register of Historic Places, the then Resource Protection Planning Process (known as RP3), the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Cultural Resources Geographic Information Systems, the Certified Local Government Program, and heritage programs for Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islanders.



Aten played a key role in laying the foundations for the public policies and professional practices that today underpin administration of the NPS national historic preservation program. He led a national effort to ensure submerged heritage properties were identified and considered in private offshore oil leases; prepared the World Heritage nomination for Cahokia Mounds; and, as the executive director, authored the 1993 report of the Congressionally-chartered Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

Aten retired in 1994 after 22 years of service to pursue research, writing, and consulting projects about prehistory of the Florida and Texas coasts. He authored *Indians of the Upper Texas Coast* and was working on a biography of Clarence Moore, an important early Southeastern archeologist, that will be published posthumously.

Donations may be made to the Lawrence E. Aten Memorial Fund by check payable to University of Florida Foundation and mailed to University of Florida Museum of Natural History, PO Box 112710, Gainesville FL, 32611 or by credit card at <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/lawrence-aten>. The Fund will be used for archeology and related education.

By Karen Mudar, from profiles in the Washington Post and the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks website

Disabled Combat Veterans Dig for Battle Stories at Revolutionary War Site: Correction

(An inaccurate version of this news report appeared in the May 2019 E-Gram. We apologize for the confusion.)

In May 2019, a team from the NPS Northeast Region Archeology Program (NRAP) had been working at Saratoga NHP on an archeological research project in partnership with the Midwest Archeological Center, volunteers from the American Veterans Archaeological Recovery Program (AVAR), the American Battlefield Trust, the Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist team, students from Sacred Heart University, as well as NPS staff. The archeologists and volunteers have been conducting an archeological survey of the Barber Wheatfield site, a location of intense fighting during the Revolutionary War's Second Battle of Saratoga. The project brought NPS and a dedicated group of American veterans together to investigate an historic battlefield, while helping to support disabled military veterans in their transition to civilian life through participation in "rehabilitation archeology."

The team recovered musket balls and case shot from 6 - and 12-pound cannon fired during the battle, as well as possible uniform buttons and other items potentially carried by the soldiers who fought there. The park will use the data collected during this survey to better understand the troop activities on the battlefield. The information uncovered during the archeological project will enhance NPS' ability to protect the resources. Prior to this survey, the site had never been properly archeologically investigated at this scale.



NRAP and park staff along with the team of US Military veteran volunteers from AVAR (photo by AVAR)

E-Mail for the E-Gram: A New E-Gram Feature

Has the E-Gram ever incorrectly reported a news event (like the one above!) that took place in your office, program, or land-managing unit that you wished that you could correct? Have you ever disagreed with one of our opinion pieces and wanted to let us know? Or maybe you really enjoyed a news article and wanted to share that with other readers? Well, now you can, with E-Mail for the E-Gram.

After the incomplete story about the excavations at Saratoga NHP, James Nyman wrote and said, "[I'm] a little bummed with May's E-gram, the highlighted section [of the news item] is incorrect - they are volunteers on a NPS designed, and managed project. It's probably too late, but I had hoped that the copy I wrote and sent you would have been considered since it's a much more accurate portrayal of the project." It wasn't too late; we present an accurate story, with one of James' pictures in the June E-Gram.

Several readers commented on the story about the *Clotilde* in the May E-Gram and wondered where they could get a copy of Zora Neale Hurston's book, *Barracoon*, that was based on experiences of an enslaved African person transported to America on the *Clotilde*. It is available from Amazon (and other places, too, probably) as a book, Kindle, or Audiobook.

If you have something that you want to get off your chest, send an e-mail message to Karen_mudar@nps.gov, and we will include it in the next issue of the E-Gram. Corrections, concerns, kudos, or complaints – bring it on!

Archeologist is New NPS Pacific West Region CESU Research Coordinator

Jadelyn Moniz-Nakamura is the newest CESU Research Coordinator for the Hawaii-Pacific Islands Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (HPI-CESU). Moniz-Nakamura comes with a broad background of service to science and scholarship. Born and raised in Hilo, Hawaii, she graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and began her career at the US Army Garrison Hawai'i as the archeologist at the Pōhakuloa Training Area.



Moniz-Nakamura started working with the NPS in 2000 as the Integrated Resources Manager/Archeologist at Hawaii Volcanoes NP. At the park, she managed the archeology and cave programs and was the Section 106 Coordinator. She assisted a number of Pacific Island network parks, working with staff across disciplines. Moniz-Nakamura has managed numerous projects, participated in public outreach, and has published (as either author or co-author) over 20 journal articles and technical reports.

For the past year, Moniz-Nakamura has been on detail to the HPI-CESU program after Darcy Hu retired. She is also coordinating a working group on the PWR Science Panel on Traditional Ecological Knowledge projects.



Archeologist is New NPS National Capital Region Section 106 Coordinator

The NPS National Capital Region (NCR) welcomes Allison Young as their new Regional Section 106 Coordinator. Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, Young studied archeology and history at the College of Wooster, in Ohio. She earned her MA in anthropology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

During graduate school, Young began working for the NPS Midwest Archeological Center. In 2014, she accepted the position of Park Archeologist at Ozark National Scenic Riverways, a job she held until coming to NCR.

FEDERAL NEWS

Virginia's Rappahannock River's Fones Cliffs Property to be Preserved

The Conservation Fund has purchased land on Fones Cliff along the Rappahannock River and will transfer it to FWS. Two hundred fifty two acres of forests, fields and deep ravines will become part of the Rappahannock River Valley NWR, adding to the refuge's 9,000 protected acres along the Northern Neck. The Conservation Fund paid the owner \$3.96 million for the property, which FWS will reimburse.

Based on explorer Captain John Smith's records of 1608, three American Indian villages were located along these cliffs. Smith described the villages "situated high upon white clay cliffs" just downstream of Tappahannock, across from marshlands.



(Photo by Dave Harp, Bay Journal)

Archeologists from St. Mary's College of Maryland have spent months surveying land along the Rappahannock River for Indian artifacts under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. They have conducted excavations on land along the cliff top but, to date, have not found evidence of the villages described by Smith. Among the Colonial era findings concentrated near the cliff were fragments of tobacco pipes, imported European ceramics and part of a glass wine bottle, all of which would have been commonplace in an early-1700s home. The archeologists also found quartz lithic materials, including the base of a Vernon projectile point that dates back 4,000–5,000 years.

From report by Whitney Pipkin, Bay Journal



The Federal Archeologists Bookshelf:

Preparing for the Future Impacts of Megastorms on Archaeological Sites: An Evaluation of Flooding from Hurricane Harvey, Houston, Texas. L. A. Reeder-Myers and M. D. McCoy. *American Antiquity* 84(2) 292-301. 2019. Knowledge co-production in climate adaptation planning of archaeological sites. S. Fatorić and E. Seekamp *Journal of Coastal Conservation*. Published online 15 May 2019.

This month, two articles about climate change and archaeology have come to my attention. The first, by Reeder-Myers and McCoy, tests two models for predicting archeological site vulnerability against data about site damage from Hurricane Harvey. The models were, admittedly, developed to predict impacts from gradual climate change, especially sea level rise, and the authors found that the both did a poor job of "predicting" which sites suffered from hurricane damage. The more simple model used a single variable - elevation above sea level - as a predictor. The more complex model incorporated a number of variables that included distance from coast, distance from fresh water, site age, and degree of urban development. Neither the models nor the individual variables correlated well to increased risk to archeological sites, with the exception of modern land use.

The authors point out that severe coastal storms are becoming increasingly frequent, and must be incorporated into models for climate change, especially variables specifically associated with hurricanes,

such as storm surge and storm-related flooding. They stress that accurate geospatial data and digital site data will be key in predicting which sites will be affected, as well as identifying sites that have been hardest hit by a particular storm. The authors referenced another study, by Ives (2017) that used funds from the NPS Historic Preservation Fund Program to perform intensive pedestrian survey along Rhode Island's coastline. The team salvaged much material culture that contributed to information about the Narragansett people.

The second article, by Fatorić and Seekamp, examines the results of an NPS workshop on climate change held in 2018. While the authors were interested in looking at the effects of a values-based process for developing a rubric for assessing archeological site values, there is much in the article of interest to archeologists who struggle with prioritizing investment in resources. Identifying how to create transparent and robust climate adaptation prioritization processes for coastal archeological sites is a challenge for Federal agencies and stakeholders.

Fatorić and Seekamp found that workshop participants identified a site's scientific value, uniqueness, spatial importance, and programmatic function (e.g., importance to purpose for park foundation) as important prioritization considerations. Site vulnerability and immediacy of impacts were also important considerations. Participants identified unpredictability in storm impact, budget allowances, and decision-maker priorities as biggest challenges to archeological preservation and climate adaptation planning.

It may be that the predicted increase in frequency of megastorms is going to be the biggest threat to integrity of coastal archeological sites, rather than gradual inundation. Robust and useful models for identifying vulnerable coastal sites will need good spatial site data that includes elevations in order to be effective. While Reeder-Myers and McCoy focused on modeling and strategies for responding to post-storm events, their findings apply equally well to modeling to predict site vulnerability.

Once vulnerable sites on our parklands are identified, prioritization for protection and scientific investigation will be necessary, as budgets will be predictably limited. A transparent decision-framework that has buy-in from stakeholders would help archeologists and managers make defensible decisions. These articles, and their extensive references, are a good place to start to build this framework.

By Karen Mudar

GRANTS AND TRAINING

Webinar to Introduce a New Interpreter's Discussion Guide

Topic: 400 Years of the African American Experience

Date: June 27, 2019

Time: 3:30pm – 5:00pm Eastern Time

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the first landing of enslaved Africans in English North America at Point Comfort in Hampton, VA. The WASO office of Interpretation, Education and Volunteers and Mather Training Center worked in conjunction with a team of field interpreters to create a discussion guide by interpreters and for interpreters. With a focus on audience centered experiences (A.C.E.), the groups has composed a guide for facilitating difficult conversations in a number of contexts surrounding the 400th commemoration throughout the National Park Service.

To register, go to

<https://doilearn2.webex.com/doilearn2/k2/j.php?MTID=t62e702f6ff8a6907afe9b1e207dea5e8>

Nominations Open for Stanton-Horton Award for Excellence in National Park Service History

The award recognizes excellence in NPS efforts in promoting public understanding of and engagement with American history. Eligible submissions include park-based interpretive work (museum exhibits, waysides, digital and print media, public programming, etc.); regionally-oriented educational and preservation programs; National Register or NHL nominations, historic resource and special resource studies which have public outreach components; and national programs and projects designed to encourage public appreciation of the complexity and richness of the American past.

The nominated project may have been undertaken by NPS employees alone or in collaboration with students, contractors, volunteers, or cooperating institutions, and involve a single national park unit or the National Park System. The award will recognize the authors, designers, or curators of the project and park superintendents and NPS managers who provided leadership on its behalf. The OAH will waive meeting registration for up to two NPS employees for recipients to attend the meeting and receive the award.

Selection will be made by the award committee. Send nominations directly to all of the committee members. Nominations must include 1.) a 1,000 word description and overview of the project; 2.) documentation of the extent of the project's public engagement, such as data about numbers and demographics of people who participated in onsite programs or visited online; 3.) the names of NPS employees associated with the project and their supervisors; and 4.) two letters of recommendation from individuals or groups familiar with the project but not associated with its planning or implementation.

The postmark/submission deadline for all nomination materials to be sent to award committee members is December 2, 2019. The award will be presented at the 2020 OAH Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., April 2–5.

Stanton-Horton Award for Excellence in National Park Service History Committee:

Diane E. Miller (Committee Chair)
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom
Harriet Tubman UGRR Visitor Center
4068 Golden Hill Road
Church Creek, MD 21622
diane_miller@nps.gov

Douglas W. Dodd
California State University, Bakersfield
Department of History
Mail Stop 10 HOB
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93311
ddodd@csub.edu

David Osborn
16 Clinch Ave
Garden City, NY 11530-2402
dho59stpaul@yahoo.com

For more information about the award, go to <https://www.oah.org/awards/uncategorized-awards/stanton-horton-award/>

Nominations Open for Natural Resource Conservation Achievement Awards

Nominations are open for the 2018 DOI Natural Resource Conservation Achievement Awards (NRCAA). The awards recognize employees and teams and partners (contractors or outside partners) who have attained exceptional natural resource conservation and environmental achievements. These awards represent efforts that go above and beyond the person or team's regular, expected performance. The NRCAA categories are:

- Good Neighbor
- Environmental Review and Permitting Champion
- Outdoor Recreation Champion
- Trailblazer
- **Cultural Resources Protection**
- Natural Resource Cleanup
- Natural Resource Stewardship
- Ralph Regula Conservation and Stewardship Champion

Award nomination deadlines and processes vary by bureau and the nominations must follow your bureau or office procedures and deadlines. Nominators should contact their Bureau or Office Award Coordinator to ensure that their nominations comply with their bureau awards process.

Contact: Kathleen Ingram, DOI Natural Resource Conservation Achievement Award Coordinator, kathleen_ingram@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-3901.

SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: Will be back next month.

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 at www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the NPS Archeology Program website.

Contact: Karen Mudar at karen_mudar@nps.gov to contribute news items and to subscribe.