



## Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### January 2020 Archeology E-Gram Print edition

#### Archeologist is New Superintendent of Biscayne National Park



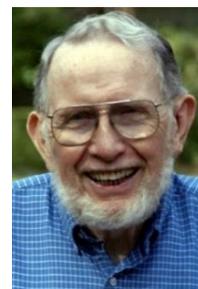
Penny Del Bene has been named superintendent of Biscayne NP. She has served for the past five years as the chief of cultural resources for Everglades and Dry Tortugas national parks. In the past year, she took over management of the cultural resources program at Biscayne NP under the combined organization of the South Florida NPS units. Del Bene previously served for five months as chief of staff for Biscayne NP where she spearheaded project planning and compliance for Hurricane Irma recovery at the park. During that time, she also led the facility management and interpretation programs at the park during temporary assignments.

Prior to joining the NPS, Del Bene worked for the Department of Agriculture as a forest heritage program manager and tribal liaison at Shasta Trinity NF. She has continued to fill a tribal liaison role for the NPS, working and building relationships with tribes in South Florida. Del Bene's fifteen years of federal experience includes multiple positions as an archeologist working at Denali National Park and Preserve and a BLM energy office in Wyoming.

#### Retired NPS Archeologist Jack Walker Passes

Former NPS Archeologist John W. "Jack" Walker passed away on December 15, 2019 in Tallahassee, Florida. He was 91 years old. Walker graduated from Mars Hill Junior College, North Carolina, in 1947. In 1950, he enlisted in the Navy and served at Kodiak Naval Station, in San Francisco, and on the U.S. El Dorado AGC11. Following his military service, Walker enrolled at the University of North Carolina and earned a B.A. in anthropology, majoring in archeology. He completed graduate work in anthropology at the University of Kentucky.

Walker began his NPS career as a staff archeologist at Ocmulgee NM in 1958. He was assigned to the Archeological Resources Unit in 1961. Except for 1962-1966, during which he worked in NPS Headquarters overseeing thematic archeological studies, Walker spent the rest of his career with the Archeological Resources Unit (later the Southeast Archeological Center [SEAC]), initially as acting Center Chief and later as a senior research archeologist until he retired in 1990. He moved from Macon, Georgia, in conjunction with the relocation of SEAC from its original location in Ocmulgee NM to the Florida State University campus in 1972.



During Jack's tenure at SEAC he served as a supervisory field archeologist or principal investigator for a number of notable archeological projects including the 1961-1962 Interstate Highway 16 salvage project (referred to as the "Big Dig"), Fort Frederica, NM in 1984-1985; and Andersonville Prison in 1987. During his years at SEAC he was generous with his broad knowledge of Southeastern archeology. Jack was a consummate scholar, a kind man, and a good friend.

#### Archeologist Named Executive Director of Canyon of the Ancients NM Friends Group

Archeologist and educator Shaine Gans has been named executive director of Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance (SCCA), a friends group for Canyons of the Ancients NM. The nonprofit focuses on environmental work, education and archeological stewardship.

Gans has a graduate degree in museum studies, a background in anthropology and archeology, and experience with education and public outreach programs. One of her goals in her new position is to emphasize the ancestral connection of archeological sites with current Native American tribes.



SCCA runs site stewardship programs, monitors wilderness study areas, conducts archeological education training for teachers, hosts volunteer work days and provides monument and museum tours for local students. It relies on a board of directors and 80+ trained volunteers to fulfill their mission. In 2020, it anticipates 1,000 local students in grades K-12 will participate in the tours. SCCA utilizes materials developed by BLM Project Archeology to train teachers in curriculum and project-based learning. The workshops are open to any licensed teacher.

### **NPS Archeologist Aids Tallahassee to Locate Enslaved Cemetery**

NPS Southeast Archeological Center archeologist Jeffrey Shanks carried out research to confirm that a cemetery of enslaved people lies beneath Tallahassee's Capital City Country Club golf course. After scanning 7,000 square meters of the golf course using ground-penetrating radar and two cadaver-sniffing dogs, Shanks concluded that subsurface anomalies at the country club are indeed graves. Rows of rectangular depressions along the 7th fairway are sunken graves of enslaved people who resided on a 19<sup>th</sup> century cotton plantation that encompassed the land of the present day golf course. Tallahassee was the center of Florida's plantation economy prior to the Civil War and had the state's highest concentration of enslaved people. Three of every four Leon County inhabitants were enslaved.

The country club is located on land owned by the Houstouns family. From the early 1800s through the Civil War, the family operated a 500-acre plantation. In modern times the land has been parceled out to developers who transformed fields into an expanse of strip malls and residential neighborhoods.

It is instructive to consider this discovery in light of a recent article by Ryan Seidemann and Christine Halling in the October 2019 *American Antiquity* (Landscape Structural Violence: A View from New Orleans' Cemeteries). They argue that cemetery erasure is an example of "landscape structural violence," where the government or dominant society destroys, obscures, or removes a cemetery without consulting the descendent community. These actions deprive descendants of access to graves of their relatives and the comfort and communication such contact provides. A Florida state task force two decades ago estimated that there could be as many as 1,500 unmarked African American cemeteries across the state.

### **St. Augustine Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, Inc, Receives NPS Grant**

The St. Augustine Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, Inc. (LAMP) received a \$499,999 grant for the First Coast Maritime Archaeology Project: Hurricane Irma Damage Assessment and Mitigation Strategy. The award is part of a Hurricane Irma NPS Subgrant from the Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. The NPS provides funding for the program pursuant to its Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program.

"The purpose of the grant is to allow museum archeologists to assess and mitigate damage caused by Hurricane Irma at eight previously investigated shipwreck and shoreline sites," said Nicholas Budsberg, a LAMP archeologist. The research funded by this grant will also allow archaeologists to re-investigate at least six offshore shipwreck sites along with two additional maritime sites located in the river bottom and tidal zone of the Tolomato River and Robinson Creek.

The team will produce 3D models of the sites as they map the sites. This will provide opportunities to locate and document other shipwrecks and cultural heritage. It will also aid educational programming at the museum.

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is dedicated to preserve, present and keep alive 500 years of maritime heritage in the nation's oldest port. The museum holds over 19,000 artifacts and archival documents. The grant will aid efforts to establish the Oldest Port National Heritage Area.

LAMP is the nonprofit research arm of the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum.

*By Staff, St. Augustine Herald Tribune*

### **Site Destruction in North Cascades National Park**

The NPS is investigating the desecration of an archeological site in North Cascades NP. Over the summer, evidence of digging was found at the Newhalem Rock Shelter camp used by the ancestors of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe. According to park records, the shelter was discovered in 1989. After discovery, a short trail and a viewing platform were built for park visitors. Tribal members helped with interpretive signs about the tribes' history that are installed at the viewing platform.

The tribe is working with the park on the investigation and offering a \$5,000 reward for information that leads to those responsible. The NPS asks anyone with information to report it to the Investigative Services Branch. Reports can be given by phone or text to 888-653-0009 or emailed to [nps\\_isb@nps.gov](mailto:nps_isb@nps.gov).



**The Federal Archeologist's Bookshelf:** Will be back soon.

### **Provisions for Cultural Resources in Federal 2020 Appropriations**

The 2020 appropriations bill (H.R. 1865) is the most preservation-friendly spending bill in American history, and contains record spending levels for important historic preservation programs. It also contains policy-related provisions that address issues in DOI management of its agencies and public lands.

The bill allocated to the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) \$118.6 million for FY 2020. This is an all-time record high, and tops last year's amount by \$16 million. In 2015, the total for the HPF was \$56.4 million, so this year's level represents an increase of more than 110% in five years. State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and Save America's Treasures all saw substantial increases. Another account that saw a huge upturn in funding was NPS line-item for construction, to pay for major projects at national parks and historic sites. It received a total of nearly \$283 million, which is an increase of 350% in just five years. NPS cultural resource programs, American Battlefields Acquisition Grants, the National Heritage Areas program, and the BLM Cultural Resources program each received increases.

On the policy side, the bill contains language calling upon the NPS to withdraw its proposed changes to federal regulations regarding the nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places. It also prevents the BLM from using funds in FY 2020 to conduct oil and gas leasing activities within 10 miles of the Chaco Culture NHP, until a cultural resources investigation—to be carried out by the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs—is completed. The bill includes \$1 million for the study.

*From report by Joe Watkins, President, Society for American Archaeology*

### **Ozark National Scenic Riverways to Eliminate Feral Swine to Protect Archeological Sites**

Ozark NSR is proposing a temporary closure on the taking, pursuing or releasing of feral swine within the park. The closure would support interagency efforts to eliminate feral swine in Missouri. This is a cooperative effort by a number of agencies and organizations, including USFS, Missouri Department of Conservation and Department of Agriculture, and USDA Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service. It is a crucial step in meeting the goals of the Missouri Feral Hog Elimination Partnership.

Feral swine are extremely destructive. They pose a growing threat to private landowners and to cultural and natural resources on public land. Sensitive ecosystems and irreplaceable archeological sites are vulnerable to their impact. “This closure to hunting of feral hogs within Ozark National Scenic Riverways is a positive step toward eliminating them from the park and from the state,” said Acting Superintendent Russ Runge. “Protecting the park’s valuable natural and cultural resources from destruction is a top priority.”

The proposal for temporary closure is available for public review and comment on the Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at [parkplanning.nps.gov/ozar](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ozar). The proposal will be open for comment from January 22 to February 11.

## **GRANTS AND TRAINING**

### **John L. Cotter Award- Call for Nominations**

The John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in NPS Archeology honors the long and distinguished career and pioneering contributions of Dr. Cotter. The award recognizes the archeological accomplishments of NPS staff or a partnership researcher within a unit or units of the National Park System. Please submit nominations for professional achievement or project excellence by March 13, 2020.

Guidelines and the 2020 nomination form can be found at:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=18YSRJZ0iLZWmm5RrwZtVC7hp\\_5\\_obNCz](https://drive.google.com/open?id=18YSRJZ0iLZWmm5RrwZtVC7hp_5_obNCz)

**Contact:** Adam Freeburg, committee chair ([adam\\_freeburg@nps.gov](mailto:adam_freeburg@nps.gov))

### **Schoodic Institute Offers Workshop on Citizen Science for Cultural Resources.**

Citizen science is advancing research and learning across multidisciplinary fields. It can be a valuable way to connect people to places and cultural heritage, and to cultivate stewardship. Schoodic Institute is offering a free hands-on workshop for designing citizen science project(s). Workshop topics include:

- Defining project goals
- Ten principles of citizen science
- Identifying resources—what kind of help do you need and who can help? Will your project need buckets, GPS handhelds, cameras, masks and snorkels?
- Data management—how do we align data collection with goals, and volunteers?
- Volunteers—what are you asking volunteers to put in, what are they getting out, and how will you know if that’s what they really get out of your project?
- Pitching your citizen science project—every project needs a pitch; we’ll help you refine yours.

The workshop is designed for resource managers, interpretation and education professionals, cultural heritage stewards, and scientists with national, state, and local parks, tribes, towns, and nonprofit organizations. The institute’s goals are to deepen understanding of citizen science, to broaden the

community of citizen science practitioners, and increase public engagement in science at national parks and other protected areas.

The workshop will be held March 3-5, 2020, South Florida Natural Resources Center, Homestead, Florida. Schoodic Institute will cover all expenses for room and board. Participants are responsible only for transportation costs.

The workshop is limited to 25 participants, pending total funding. Teams of two to five people are encouraged to apply, but individuals are more than welcome! Applications for the workshops will be accepted on a rolling basis. Selected participants will be notified well prior to the workshop so that they can make any necessary travel plans.

To apply, go to <https://forms.gle/18XVhShRoMrAzqGm8>

**Contact:** Hannah Webber, [hwebber@schoodicinstitute.org](mailto:hwebber@schoodicinstitute.org), 207-412-8689.

### **National Park Service and National Park Foundation Offer Women In Parks Grants**

The NPS and the National Park Foundation request proposals for the Women In Parks Innovation and Impact Grant program funded by the National Park Foundation. The Innovation and Impact Grants support projects and programs with a more comprehensive American narrative that includes the voices of women whose vision, tenacity, and resilience moved them to climb mountains, take down barriers, shape history, protect the environment, and lead social movements. The initiative increases awareness about the 19th Amendment's centennial and the women who continue to shape our world.

A total of up to \$300,000 is available. Grant requests may not exceed \$25,000 per application; there is no minimum threshold and only one grant request may be submitted per park or regional program office. Parks and programs are encouraged to submit proposals for a wide range of projects including (but not limited to) women's history research, interpretation or program delivery; expanding women's representation in diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives; preservation and access to women's history collections; internships that support the 19th Amendment centennial/women in parks activities; scientific/technical activities led by female NPS staff; or other highlights of women NPS trailblazers.

The best proposals will 1) promote meaningful engagement regarding women's histories and the 19th Amendment between and among NPS parks and programs and the public; 2) leverage existing programs, relationships, and resources within the NPS and 3) collaborate with local community organizations, educational institutions, partners, other NPS parks and programs, and/or engage volunteers.

**Contact:** Karen Lee at 202-796-3114, [klee@nationalparks.org](mailto:klee@nationalparks.org)

### **NAGPRA Grants Now Available for FY20**

The National NAGPRA Program is currently accepting applications for the Consultation/Documentation and Repatriation grant programs. Deadlines to apply are February 14, 2020, for Consultation/Documentation and April 10, 2020 for Repatriation grants.

For more information, go to <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/grant-opportunities.htm>.

**Contact:** Sarah Glass, Notice and Grant Coordinator, National NAGPRA Program, 202-354-2201

### **Wilderness Training**

The NPS Wilderness Stewardship Division will offer **Preservation of Wilderness Character Training** on May 5-7, 2020 (with travel on May 4 and May 8) in Baraboo, WI, with a site visit to Aldo Leopold's historic property. The target audience for this training includes wilderness coordinators, and NPS staff and partners that work in and with wilderness -- including those working in natural and cultural resource management, interpretation, facilities, law enforcement, trails, and administration (in parks, regions, and national offices). Training objectives include:

- Understanding the mandates of the Wilderness Act and NPS policy regarding preservation of wilderness character.
- Understanding and applying the nationally standardized definitions of the qualities of wilderness character as derived from the Wilderness Act.
- Learning about the wilderness character “building blocks” including wilderness character narratives, baseline assessments, and ongoing monitoring.
- Integrating wilderness character preservation into park planning, management, and operations-- including application of the Minimum Requirement Analysis (MRA) process.
- Supporting the interagency Wilderness 2020 Vision.

This is a tuition-free course, and thanks to support from WASO Learning and Development, financial aid is available to support travel costs for participants.

Seats will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis, with a final application deadline of March 9, 2020.

**Contact:** Erin Drake, [erin\\_drake@nps.gov](mailto:erin_drake@nps.gov)

### **Workshop on Archeology of Firearms: Insights into the Human Past**

The NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), the Springfield Armory NHS, and the Friends of NCPTT are sponsoring the Archeology of Firearms. The workshop will demonstrate methods for studying firearms, firearm parts, and ammunition components found in archeological contexts, and the information, analytical techniques, and conceptual approaches used to understand the material residues of guns and investigate human behaviors that involved firearms use.

Start date and time: 18 August 2020 at 8:30 am

End date and time: 20 August 2020 at 4:30 pm

Location: Springfield Armory, NHS, 1 Armory Square, Springfield, MA 01105, meeting will be in the classroom of the museum/visitors center.

Lodging address: Holiday Inn Express, 145 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103 (413) 285-8436. Group Code: Archeology of Firearms (or, AOF) Group rate \$119.00. 17-20 August 2019.

**Contact:** Tad Britt (318) 521-5641 [Tad\\_Britt@nps.gov](mailto:Tad_Britt@nps.gov)

### **SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: When Nature Calls in the Backcountry, It's a Problem**

*by Colleen Stinchcombe, Sierra Magazine*

For one day each September in Olympic National Park, if you see a helicopter overhead, it's probably not retrieving an injured hiker. Most likely, the chopper is carrying barrels full of excrement.



Back country cat hole in potential archeological site. (Photo: mojave2009 at drycyclist dot com)

Like many park systems, NPS struggles to manage ever-increasing numbers of visitors—the national park system as a whole saw 313 million visitors in 2018, up from 281 million in 2010—as well as what those visitors leave behind. Managing the increasing volume of human waste in the backcountry, far from plumbing and flush toilets, is a particular challenge. “I think it's one of the biggest issues . . . right now in the park,” says Larry Lack, Olympic’s trail program manager.

Often, backcountry visitors are left to find their own spots to squat, but “especially in the high country . . . it's a really fragile plant community. [When] people are wandering all over trying to find a place to go, they're causing damage that can take decades to heal,” Lack says.

Pit toilets—large holes in the ground covered by a wooden “throne”—are the most common, low-maintenance answer to this problem, but on the park’s coast, privy spots come at a premium. The beaches in Olympic NP are part of the largest wild coastline in the contiguous U.S., and many contain important Native American archeological sites. The popularity of some areas requires new holes every two or three years. “We can't keep digging holes as fast as they fill up,” says Lack. On top of that, it’s unclear how long it takes, once buried, for the contents of these holes to decompose—a USFS guide from 1995 suggests it can take years, even decades. Dave Conca, an archeologist and Olympic’s cultural resource program manager, says he wouldn’t want to set a shovel in the same place for at least half a century.

To alleviate the impact of pit toilets, Olympic has installed eight self-contained vault toilets at the most popular backcountry spots. While these toilets are convenient for visitors, and help prevent damage to delicate park soils, they have their own maintenance issues. Personnel regularly hike 10, 18, or 30 miles and thousands of feet of elevation to clean the toilets, replace vaults, or ready them for removal. What does it take to remove a vault full of human waste? The 35-gallon barrels, which weigh around 200 pounds, must be maneuvered by one or two park workers to hidden locations where visitors won’t see them. Later, they’ll have to be moved again—often hundreds of yards away—to a spot where a helicopter has enough clearance to fly them out.

But helicopters are expensive (Glacier NP spends \$20,000 a year just to empty the vaults from two remote chalets) and a safety risk. Some parks have begun to explore alternatives to both pit and vault toilets. Tara Vessella, wilderness field coordinator at Rocky Mountain NP, realized digging endless holes for pit

toilets at popular backcountry campgrounds wasn't going to work. "After the second or third time I dug a hole, I said we can't do this anymore. This isn't responsible use, and it isn't sustainable."

This led her to Geoff Hill, the founder and owner of Seattle-based Toilet Tech. Hill has a PhD in human waste management and saw the problem of backcountry toilets firsthand while researching for his thesis. He learned about a working design for a special kind of toilet in France and Switzerland, which he's since imported and started selling.

The basic design for Toilet Tech privies is this: Rather than urine and feces combining into a single container, gravity funnels the pee off to the side, just below ground. "We're really trying to promote biomimicry," he says. "Every mammal pees on the surface of the earth, and that's the primary nitrogen and phosphorus nutrient for life in general."

While urine runs off, poop collects on a conveyor belt. When the visitor is finished, they press a foot lever a handful of times and send the waste into a separate pile. (One park has taken to calling them "poopscalators.") A second model takes it a step further, encouraging soil bugs to eat away at dung by carefully managing the pile and further reducing the amount of mass that has to be hauled out.

At Rocky Mountain NP, park officials have installed seven of Hill's toilets. Their first hasn't been emptied for three years, and they don't expect to empty it for another two. Since 2013, Hill has sold 230 toilets for both public and private uses. Zion NP and Mount Rainier NP have at least one installed.

But these high-tech privies still have drawbacks. The toilets are expensive up front—Hill estimates the conveyor system on its own costs \$4,100, and a complete system runs about \$20,000—a lot of money for cash-strapped parks. While Rocky Mountain's visitation numbers have grown by 42 percent since 2012, funding hasn't kept pace. "Our budget, the way we describe it, it's been flat or eroding over the last 10-plus years," says the park's public affairs officer, Kyle Patterson.

Regular maintenance is also necessary for the Toilet Tech designs, such as checking and clearing a urine filter, and despite plenty of signage, people still treat the toilets like, well, crap. In the first month the pee-less wonders were installed at Rocky Mountain National Park, someone dumped their Mountain House backpacking meal in the toilet, which froze and clogged one of the filters. More recently, someone poured hot ash in a toilet and melted some of its parts.

But clearly technology can't be the only solution. In parts of Rocky Mountain National Park, particularly those heavily used by climbers, officials are requesting (but not requiring) that visitors use waste bags to pack out their own poop. In other words, it's worth trying to stretch the mantra of Leave No Trace to include backcountry facilities too. "It might be putting toilet paper in your pocket versus burying it," Vessella says, or moving faster at the end of a hike when you know you've gotta go so you can hit a real commode. "That extra thought process of how your actions affect everyone else could really be a place to start."

*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](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm) on the NPS Archeology Program website.

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