



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## May 2020 Archeology E-Gram Print edition

### National Park Service Announces Cotter Award Winners

The NPS is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in NPS Archeology. This award is presented to archeologists who demonstrate innovation in archeological practice, resource stewardship, and public outreach, among other criteria. The winners are:

**Rolando Garza** (Professional Achievement): Rolando Garza's body of work at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park exemplifies the impact one person can have on a national park unit. He conducted numerous geophysical surveys to further understanding of the park and partnered with state, federal, municipal, and private parties to investigate and protect sites throughout the Rio Grande valley. Whether at the Annual Rio Grande Delta International Archeology Fair that he organizes, leading a Texas Master Naturalist class, or dressed as a circa 1846 Mexican soldier as part of a living history program he developed, Garza makes sure his knowledge of and passion for historic resources are shared with a broad public.

**Matthew Guebard** (Project Award): *The Castle, A Oral History Project*, directed by Matthew Guebard of Montezuma Castle National Monument and Tuzigoot National Monument, combined archival research, new fieldwork and analyses, and oral history to produce new data and interpretations of the occupation and abandonment of Montezuma Castle's cliff dwellings. The convergence of archeological data - collected and analyzed in collaboration with university and non-profit partners- and oral history shared by the Hopi, Apache, and Yavapai tribes provides a compelling story with multiple lines of evidence for abandonment of the dwellings in the late 14th century due to a siege-like attack. Guebard's work incorporates new findings into interpretive information.

John L. Cotter (1911 – 1999) was best known for his work at Jamestown, Virginia, and his contributions to the development of historical archeology. The award was created to recognize professional achievements and exceptional projects in honor of Cotter's long and distinguished career. Award nominations are peer submitted and voted on by an award committee comprising of NPS archeologists.

### Passing of NPS Anthropologist Fred York

Former NPS anthropologist Fred York passed away at his Seattle home on January 31, 2020. In a career spanning some five decades, York was an energetic presence who helped reform federal relationships with Native American communities across the American West. York was born in Germany to Fay W. York, a U.S. serviceman and driver for General Lucius Clay, and Waltraud Erika Radau of Berlin. Raised in Southington, CT, Fred earned a BA in anthropology from the University of Connecticut, focusing on a study of the cultures of the American Southwest. Politically engaged, he was also a member of Students for a Democratic Society.



York moved to the Four Corners region of the Southwest in 1975, launching a 16-year program of applied anthropological research. He collaborated with tribes to document threats to their culture - working for the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department, the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, and the University of New Mexico Office of Contract Archaeology. He developed especially close working relationships with the

Navajo, helping protect the tribe's graves and key cultural sites from the deleterious effects of resource development. Aided by Navajo translators, York recorded the recollections of elders - providing insights into places previously recorded archeologically and producing a rich corpus of short ethnographies and technical reports. He also oversaw ethnographic studies of tribal ties to NPS units, such as at Wupatki and Chaco Culture NHP. Concurrently, York completed both an M.A. (1988) and a Ph.D. (1990) in Anthropology at The State University of New York, Binghamton. His dissertation, *Capitalist Development and Land in Northeastern Navajo Country, 1880s to 1990s* documented, through a Marxist lens, federal appropriation of tribal lands for commercial interests in the "checkerboard" region of the reservation.

York began his career with the NPS in 1991 as one of the agency's first three regional anthropologists. He came to the NPS as "a four field anthropologist," with a background in cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, archeology, and linguistics. His generalist skill set served him well as he navigated the complex legal and political terrain of tribal consultation and ethnographic resource management. His first assignment was with a "NAGPRA SWAT team" to coordinate the repatriation of human remains stored at Fort Vancouver NHP.

With the merger of the NPS Pacific Northwest and Western Regions in 1995, York's responsibilities expanded to encompass consultation with tribes and other populations in California, Nevada, and the Pacific Islands. He initiated regular NPS consultation with American Indians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians - focusing on dispute resolution, and engaging tribal members through the park planning process. Critical of what he perceived as the uneven research of "applied anthropologists," York became a passionate advocate for the professionalization of anthropology within federal agencies. He denounced certain agency practices - such as maintaining simple lists of archeological sites or "ethnographic resources" needing protection. Instead, York advocated social science methods to address grievances, to understand tribal interests in their deeper historical context, and to build meaningful long-term relationships between park managers and Native peoples.

Working at the NPS- managed Bear River Massacre Site in Idaho, for example, he collaborated with Shoshone descendants of survivors to guide future site management and the unique interpretation challenges of sharing this place with the American public. In other settings, York sought the input of tribes on the appropriate protection and interpretation of culturally sensitive burials and petroglyph sites. York also worked closely with Japanese-Americans incarcerated during World War II and their families to develop plans for NPS management of Minidoka NHS in Idaho and the interpretation of its painful history to the American public. He oversaw similar efforts at Kalaupapa NHP.

Tribes expressed to York concerns about prohibitions on plant gathering within traditional harvest sites incorporated into national parks. In response, he initiated ethnobotanical studies of parks such as Yosemite NP and, in 2000, co-chaired a nationwide forum of NPS managers addressing Native American plant gathering interests on NPS lands. Working through the agency's American Indian Liaison Office, York co-authored regulations allowing tribes to develop plant gathering agreements with park units, and sought tribal and agency input on these regulatory changes. Though the final language of the published regulation (36 CFR 2.6) departed somewhat from his original, and was only finalized after York's retirement, traditional plant gathering on national park lands is being decriminalized through agreements still in development today.

An animated proponent of protecting Native American burials, York directed legal efforts by parks and museums to return curated human remains and sacred objects to tribes across the West. So too, he advised tribes developing Tribal Historic Preservation Offices to document and protect culturally significant places on tribal lands.

A voracious reader of the literatures of anthropology and history, York collaborated on writing projects throughout his career. He served as co-editor of a 2009 issue of the *George Wright Forum* addressing Traditional Cultural Properties and founded the NPS Pacific West Region Social Science Series. After his 2014 retirement, York remained in Seattle. He advised ethnographic researchers within parks, and mentored younger anthropologists in both agency and academic settings. At the time of his death, Fred was collaborating on several publications, and independently authored a book-length treatment of the relationship between Yosemite National Park and American Indian communities.

*From profile by Doug Deur, New York Times*

### **Vandals Deface City of Rocks National Reserve**

Special Agents with the NPS Investigative Services Branch are investigating the vandalism and defacing of a historic landmark that occurred within City of Rocks National Reserve. On or about April 21, 2020, the emigrant signatures and prehistoric pictographs of Camp Rock, a historic landmark within City of Rocks National Reserve, were greatly defaced by vandals with graffiti. Such places are protected under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

### **Bureau of Land Management Extends Deadline for Greater Chaco Comments to September 25**

The coronavirus raging in the Navajo Nation and New Mexico pueblos in part prompted U.S. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to announce the extension of the public comment period on a plan that will shape the future of oil and gas drilling near Chaco Culture NHP. Bernhardt announced a 120-day extension of the public comment period until September 15, 2020 for the BLM proposed plan.

New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham; leadership of the All Pueblo Council of Governors and Navajo Nation and the entire New Mexico Congressional delegation communicated with Bernhardt about a need to extend the comment period as tribal lands endure the worst of the state's outbreak of COVID-19. Now, the public has more time to weigh in on a proposal that is widely opposed by Pueblo leaders and local communities for its lack of protections for Chaco Canyon and surrounding areas and communities.



### **The Federal Archeologist's Bookshelf: Carbon dating, the archaeological workhorse, is getting a major reboot**

By Nicola Jones, *Nature*, 19 May 2020.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01499-y>

Whether you are a prehistoric or historic archeologist, chances are you rely on radiocarbon dating to provide dates for occupation, or verify dates derived from other sources. It might be time to re-run or recalibrate some of those samples, because radiocarbon dating is about to get a major update.

For the first time in seven years, the technique will be recalibrated, using new data from around the world. The work combines thousands of data points from tree rings, lake and ocean sediments, corals and stalagmites, among other features. It extends the time frame for radiocarbon dating back to 55,000 years ago — 5,000 years further than the last calibration update in 2013. Because of variability in the distribution of carbon-14 around the world, three new curves will be published — one each for the northern hemisphere (IntCal20), southern hemisphere (SHCal20), and marine samples (MarineCal20).

IntCal20 is based on 12,904 data points, nearly double the size of 2013's data set and the results are far more satisfying. For a known, brief magnetic field reversal 40,000 years ago, for example, the 2013 curve's carbon-14 peak was too low and too old by 500 years — a discrepancy fixed by the new curve. The new calibrations will change interpretations of archeological data. For example, the oldest *H. sapiens* fossil found in Eurasia — Ust'-Ishim, unearthed in Siberia — is almost 1,000 years younger than

previously thought, according to the new conversion curves. This may have implications for understanding the timing and mechanisms for colonizing the New World.

Since 1998 there have been four official IntCal calibrations, adding in data from laminated lake and marine sediments, cave stalagmites and corals. In 2018, some stalagmites in Hulu Cave in China provided a datable record stretching back 54,000 years.

### **International Archaeology Day Collaborator Listening Sessions**

The AIA held two listening sessions with International Archaeology Day collaborating organizations to inquire how their collaborators were faring at this time. The AIA wanted to learn how they were currently grappling with public programming and to brainstorm about redefining the shape of IAD for the fall. The next sessions will be at 11:00 am (ET) on June 6, 2020. Sign up by entering your email address in the name field on the AIA [doodle poll](#).

### **GRANTS AND TRAINING**

(none reported at this time)

### **SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: Contagious Films**

By Karen Mudar

If you missed the May 15 issue of the *New Yorker*, then you missed a great review of contagion films. Check some of them out to see how Hollywood matches reality.

***Panic in the Streets*** (1950) An oldie but goodie (and no, I wasn't around when it first came out.)

***The Last Man on Earth*** (1964)

***The Satan Bug*** (1965)

***The Omega Man*** (1971)

***The Andromeda Strain*** (1971) It was a good year for contagion films.

***The Crazies*** (1973) bio-horror in this frenzied film about the United States government's attempt to contain the release of a deadly biological weapon, nicknamed Trixie, in a small town.

***12 Monkeys*** (1995)

***Outbreak*** (1995) Another good year for contagion films

***Armageddon*** (1998) with the unforgettable Bruce Willis.

***28 Days Later*** (2003)

***Children of Men*** (2006) with Julianne Moore (one of MY favorite actresses)

***I Am Legend*** (2007) with the unforgettable Emma Thompson

***28 Weeks Later*** (2007) The sequel to ***28 Days Later***

***Carriers*** (2009) Good but grisly. People die from a virus that looks more like bubonic plague than flu.

***Contagion*** (2011) my personal favorite, that maps onto the present situation with an eerie prescience. How could the writers have known?

And, for apocalyptic films, you can hardly beat the classic ***The Seventh Seal*** (1957) and the Mad Max quartet (***Mad Max*** (1979), ***Mad Max 2*** (1981), ***Beyond Thunderdome*** (1985), and ***Fury Road*** (2015)).

There's also contagion, apocalyptic, and dystopian novels but I avoid them like, well, like the plague.

***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.

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