



## Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### February 2007, Archeology E-Gram

#### Projects on Assateague Island and Cape Krusenstern Highlighted

The NPS Archaeology Program has added two new web pages describing archeological projects that have taken place in national parks. Each of these is adapted from an Archeology E-gram Projects in Parks story. The loan agreement between Spain and the park for artifacts from Spanish shipwreck sites at Assateague Island National Seashore in Virginia is described here:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/assateague.htm>

The survey and inventory of the Cape Krusenstern beach ridge archeological complex at Cape Krusenstern National Monument in Alaska is described here:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npSites/capeKrusenstern.htm>

#### New Technical Brief on Archeological Damage Assessment

“Archeological Resource Damage Assessment: Legal Basis and Methods,” by Martin E. McAllister, is now online on the Archeology Program website as Technical Brief #20:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/pubs/techBr/tch20.htm>. This technical brief describes and explains the archeological resource damage assessment process, including the legal basis and procedures for field damage assessment, value and cost determinations, and report preparation. Archeologists involved in ARPA investigations must fully understand the archeological resource damage assessment process and how to carry it out correctly because the credibility of such damage assessments directly affects the outcome of these cases and the criminal or civil penalties imposed.

The Archeology Program Technical Briefs series consist of short reports that address technical, methodological, and substantive issues in public archeology and ethnography. For a complete list of technical briefs, go to <http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/PUBS/TECHBR/index.htm>

#### NPS Archeologist Receives Award

NPS Archeologist Thomas C. Windes was awarded the Byron S. Cummings award for 2006 by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society. The Cummings award is given annually for outstanding research and contributions to knowledge in Southwestern anthropology. Tom is recognized as a leading scholar in Chaco culture, both in Chaco Canyon and beyond. A long-time employee of the NPS, he has been an author or co-author of more than 65 publications and reports.

As part of his interest in chronology, Tom has collected hundreds of samples and helped to refine the Southwest Master curve. This work has resulted in the preservation of thousands of tree ring records, and the derivation of thousands of dates that have revolutionized the archeological chronologies of many areas. Among the many significant outcomes of this research are refined internal chronologies for sites in Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde, Natural Bridges, and elsewhere; the demonstration that construction of Pueblo Bonito began half a century earlier than previously thought; the characterization of Chacoan wood-use; the detailed chronology of Spanish and Anglo occupations in the middle Pecos Valley; the dating of Colonial and more recent structures in the Rio Grande Valley; and many others.

### **AIA Recognizes Contributions by Patty Jo Watson**

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) has awarded Patty Jo Watson the Pomerance Award for Scientific Contributions to Archaeology for her interdisciplinary research in paleoethnobotany and ethnoarcheology. Watson's work with paleoethnobotany has been conducted in both Salts Cave, KY, and in the Middle East. Her work in Salts Cave has changed the manner in which eastern North America is studied, and has set a high standard for research in both the New and the Old World. One of the most significant contributions is the refinement and application of flotation technology to the recovery of ancient seeds and small bones. Watson has published many influential works, including *Archaeological Ethnography in Western Iran*, and *Explanation in Archeology: An Explicitly Scientific Approach*. Her service to professional archeology includes work with the American Anthropological Association, the Society for American Archeology, the National Academy of Science, and the Archaeological Institute of America.

### **New Colonial NHP Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center Opens**

As part of the quadricentennial celebrations, the new Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center opened its doors on January 2, 2007. The 18,000-square-foot facility provides a variety of orientation services, including museum exhibits, audio-visual programs, and personal interpretive services. Interactive museum exhibits tell the story of Jamestowne's 92 years as capital of Virginia. The exhibits within the center are intelligently assembled and offer a compelling personal face to the diverse peoples who occupied the land during Jamestown's early days and its 92-year tenure as the first capital of Virginia.

However, of major appeal is a multimedia show entitled "Jamestowne: America's Birthplace," shown in a circular theater holding 160 seats offering expansive, 180-degree vistas. In the audio-visual "immersion" experience, nine computers control more than 3,000 images as a multi-media overview of Jamestowne's rich history and personalities. It is a wonderfully designed presentation that cleverly blends limited video, still shots, graphics, visual and auditory effects, music, and animation-type movement. For the hearing impaired, the program offers subtitles of the narration and even sound effects and musical style.

The program openly approaches the subject of the initial negative impact the Englishmen from the Virginia Company had on the Powhatan chiefdom and the fact that ancestral Native Americans occupied these lands for more than 10,000 years before the settlers landed. It openly addresses the role colonists played in establishing a slave state society. Despite this, the Jamestowne colonists also gave the future nation positive legacies. Primary among them was the establishment of representative government in 1619.

A new, elevated footbridge leads from the new visitor center to the historic town site, providing a panoramic view of Jamestowne. From the bridge's terminus at the Jamestowne Tercentenary Monument, visitors may visit the Jamestowne Rediscovery archeological excavations or take a stroll through New Towne, site of the Jamestowne's post-fort population center from the 1620s to 1699, when the capital moved to Williamsburg.

For more information about Jamestowne, go to <http://www.nps.gov/jame/index.htm>. David Barna and *Virginia Gazette* writer John Shulson contributed to this news item.

### **DOI to provide training in Managing Museum Property**

The Interior Museum Program, Department of the Interior (DOI), is sponsoring **Managing Museum Property**, a five day (36 hour) course providing training in the fundamentals of managing museum property. The training targets Federal property managers, interpreters, historians, archeologists, natural history specialists, and other resource specialists with museum responsibilities, as well as staff in repositories that manage Federal collections. Topics to be covered include:

- An overview of the DOI Museum Program

- How Museum Collections Support DOI and Bureau Missions
- Identifying Museum Property
- Managing Archive Collections
- Guidance on Reporting Requirements
- Scope of Collections Statements
- Museum Documentation (Accessioning, Cataloging, Loans, Inventory, Insurance, and Deaccessioning)
- Museum Collection Preservation (Environmental Factors, Monitoring and Controls, Integrated Pest Management, Handling Museum Objects)
- Exhibiting and Storing Museum Property
- Museum Protection (Fire Protection, Security, and Emergency Management)

The class will be held April 2-6, 2007 at the National Park Service's Western Archeological and Conservation Center in Tucson, AZ. There is no tuition for this training event. Additional information and an application can be found at the Interior Museum Program website at [www.doi.gov/museum/managing.html](http://www.doi.gov/museum/managing.html)

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### **NPS Announces Ocean Park Stewardship Action Plan**

The NPS has announced the release of the Ocean Park Stewardship Action Plan, a comprehensive plan for restoring and maintaining ocean resources in the National Park System for current and future generations.

Supported by President Bush's U.S. Ocean Action Plan and the Department of the Interior, the Ocean Park Stewardship Action Plan was drafted with input from the NPS National Leadership Council, park superintendents and various partners. The plan will focus the organizational and scientific capacity of the NPS on conserving marine, estuarine, and Great Lakes resources in collaboration with state and federal agencies and park stakeholders.

"This comprehensive program represents our commitment to restore and maintain productive fisheries, habitats, and wildlife in the ocean parks, and ensure the recreational opportunities they afford to hundreds of communities and millions of visitors" said Mary Bomar, Director of the NPS. "I am pleased that the Ocean Park Plan highlights collaborations with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and private partners, including our recent agreement for a seamless network of ocean parks, wildlife refuges, marine sanctuaries, and estuarine reserves."

The National Park System contains more than 5,100 miles of beaches; coral reefs; kelp forests; wetlands; historic shipwrecks and forts; and other coastal archeological sites. These jewels of the coastal zone attract over 75 million visitors every year. These parks play a critical role in conserving the nation's maritime and Great Lakes heritage. In 74 parks, spanning 25 coastal states and U.S. territories, people come to camp, fish, snorkel, scuba dive, boat, and watch wildlife.

To read and learn more about the Ocean Park Stewardship Strategy and coastal and oceanic parks in the National Park System, visit the **Above and Below the Waves: Coastal and Oceanic Treasures in the National Park System** website at [http://www.nps.gov/pub\\_aff/oceans/conserves.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/oceans/conserves.htm).

### **NPS Archeologist Rob Hommon Retires**

Robert J. "Rob" Hommon, archeologist in the Pacific West Region, retired in September 2005 after 22 years of federal service, 12 of those years with the NPS.

Rob earned a Ph.D. in archeology from the University of Arizona in 1976. In 1983 he began working for the Navy in the Pacific as an archeologist. He was extensively involved in a number of projects, including the archeological inventory of Kaho'olawe. In 1993, Rob joined the NPS in the Pacific Area Office in Honolulu as the Pacific Area Archeologist. In this capacity, he provided oversight for a variety of cultural resources programs, handled compliance and consultation issues, field assessments, monitoring and archeological survey projects, and served as a science advisor for cultural resources in the Pacific West Region.

Rob has written and published extensively on complex Pacific societies, with a special emphasis on Hawaiian societies. Among his many accomplishments he completed an ethnographic history of Ka'awaloa.

Rob retired to Pacific Grove, CA, and is currently working on a book for the NPS about the cultural resources of the state, county, and national parks throughout Hawaii and the Pacific. His many friends and colleagues wish him well in his retirement, and look forward to reading his book.

### **Projects in Parks: The Middle Ford Ferry Tavern Project, Monocacy NB**

In 2003, NPS archeologists began a multi-year archeological study of the Thomas Farm, located within the boundaries of Monocacy NB, between Frederick, MD, and Washington, DC. One of the most important results of the Thomas Farm study, however, relates to the farm's pre-Civil War history – the discovery of the Middle Ford ferry and tavern site, both of which were in operation by the middle part of the eighteenth century on an important route through Frederick County.

The results of both archeological and historic research at the site provide insight into the earliest settlement and occupation of Frederick County and the surrounding region, chronicling over 80 years of expansion and transformation. The vital trade and transportation routes transformed Frederick County into a gateway to the west, facilitated the growth of population and industry, and spurred the development of roads, bridges, and thoroughfares that remain in use even today. This research project provides the NPS with a unique opportunity to interpret the Battle of Monocacy within a broader context: the development of Colonial transportation and trade routes which made the Monocacy region of strategic importance to both North and South during the Civil War.

NPS employees who can access the NPS intranet can learn more about this project by going to **Projects in Parks** <<http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670>> 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 National Park Service and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. Past issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* are available on the *Archeology E-Gram* webpage <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3867> on InsideNPS; and on the *News & Links* page <http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the Archeology Program website.

*Projects in Parks* is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in a national park. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* webpage. The full reports are available on the *Projects in Parks* webpage <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670> on InsideNPS; and through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* on the Archeology Program website.

**Contact** [dca@nps.gov](mailto:dca@nps.gov) to contribute news items, stories for "Projects in Parks," and to subscribe.