



## Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



### October 2007, Archeology E-Gram

#### Archeology Program updates “Research in the Parks”

The NPS Archeology Program has updated the “Research in the Parks” page:

<http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/npsites.htm>. Find links to park-based archeology projects, reports, virtual exhibits, and more. Follow the links to our recently added pages on the archeological search for French settlers at Canaveral NS in Florida, Battlefield Archeology at Kings Mountain NMP in South Carolina, and African American archeology at Nicodemus NHS in Kansas. All of these research reports first appeared as Archeology E-Gram Projects in Parks features.

#### Gila Cliff Dwellers National Monument to Celebrate Centennial

On November 16, 1907, Gila Cliff Dwellers NM will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the proclamation by President Theodore Roosevelt to establish the monument. The 158 acre monument was established to protect 800 year old Pueblo cliff dwellings hidden in caves in canyons of the Gila River. The proclamation described the site as “a group of cliff-dwellings . . . of exceptional scientific and educational interest, being the best representative of the Cliff-Dwellers' remains of that region” (Proc. No. 787). The monument was expanded to the present 533 acres by a proclamation signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1962. Jurisdiction over Gila Cliff Dwellings passed to the NPS in 1933, back to the U.S. Forest Service in 1975, and then returned to the NPS again in 2003.

Located in southwestern New Mexico, the monument is surrounded by Gila NF and Gila Wilderness Area, the first designated wilderness in the U.S. This wilderness area, beloved of Aldo Leopold, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century conservationist, is currently assisting in the re-establishment of the Mexican Gray Wolf.

The Gila Cliff Dwellings NM is the only unit in the NPS that contains Mogollon sites; other known archeological sites in the monument include Archaic-aged rock shelters, pit houses, open area pueblos, Apache sites, and Euroamerican historic period sites.

Throughout 2007, Gila Cliff Dwelling NM’s theme “Celebrating a Century of Storytelling” has guided the special programs and events leading up to the actual anniversary of the proclamation. To learn more about the monument and celebratory activities, go to <http://www.nps.gov/gicl/>.

#### NPS releases guidance for Historic Preservation Commissioners

The NPS Heritage Preservation Services has released the web publication “Law and the Historic Preservation Commission: What Every Member Needs to Know,”

([www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/partnership/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/partnership/index.htm)) by James K. Reap and Melvin B. Hill.

This publication provides a “plain English” introduction to many basic legal concepts and issues that historic and archeological preservation commissioners may encounter. The information is intended to demystify laws governing historic and archeological preservation and give historic preservation commissioners the information needed to make sound and legally defensible decisions.

This is the latest title in the NPS “Cultural Resources Partnership” Notes series - occasional short essays on historic preservation planning, related planning and land use topics, and preservation strategies for

federal agencies, tribes, states, and local governments. There are four other issues in this series available both on-line and in hard copy. Hard copies are available from Susan L. Renaud, Series Editor.

### **Archeological Resources in Teaching with Museum Collections**

The NPS Museum Management Program's "Teaching with Museum Collections" web pages provide lesson plans for educators that use NPS collections in student-centered activities. The lesson plans emphasize the links between the "real things" – objects in museum collections – and America's history and prehistory. Collections connect students to their past; to rich and varied cultures; and to momentous events, inspired ideas, and the places where history happened.

Two of the eight available lesson plans focus on Native American and archeological themes. One, "Bandelier National Monument," examines archeological tools, and links the tools and activities to the social roles of community-members who performed the activities. The lesson plan cleverly links past and present, demonstrating the vitality of living Pueblo culture, through an examination of Pueblo pottery-making today.

The other archeological lesson plan in "Teaching with Museum Collections" focuses on collections in Nez Perce NHP. The lesson plan explores gender roles and culture change through examination of clothing. The vibrant and colorful photographs that the lesson plan developers have assembled will capture students' attention and hold their interest.

The lesson plans include reading materials, web resources, glossaries, classroom activities, and link to national educational standards. Although targeted to a specific age group, both plans can be adapted to younger or older students. A teaching tool "How to Read an Object" helps teachers to structure students' discussion about a particular image.

These lesson plans and others are available on the NPS Museum Management Program website at <http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/tmc/index.htm>.

### **Archeologist Julie King reappointed to ACHP**

President George W. Bush announced his appointment of four individuals to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). New appointments to the ACHP are Thomas R. Miller of Franklin, Tennessee, and John A. Garcia of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Reappointed to the ACHP to historic preservation expert positions for a second four-year term are Julia A. King of St. Mary's City, Maryland, and Ann A. Pritzlaff of Denver, Colorado.

"We are delighted to welcome Mr. Garcia and Mayor Miller to the ACHP, and to retain the expertise and enthusiasm of Ms. Pritzlaff and Dr. King who have been vital to our preservation efforts," said John L. Nau, III, ACHP chairman.

Julia A. King is associate professor of archaeology and anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland. She has been a major force in the ACHP effort to update archaeological guidelines with reference to the federal and national preservation structure. With more than two decades' experience as an archaeologist, researcher, author, and educator, King holds a doctorate in American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania.

### **USGS Releases Biodiversity Images Website**

Need a picture of a common potato to illustrate an archeological talk? How about a cattle tyrant? Now you can get them! The USGS-National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) has released a new Web site for its rapidly growing Digital Image Library (DIL) <<http://images.nbii.gov>>. Containing thousands of images donated by photographers and organizations, the DIL goes beyond many other media

sites by linking images to detailed information such as location, scientific and common names, and habitat and behavior descriptions to support research, education, and decision-making. With 30,000 images in the queue, the DIL allows multiple ways to browse the collections and select images. Additional tools are being developed to support advanced searching, related content discovery, collaboration, and more!

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### ***George Wright Forum* Challenges NPS in Essay Series**

The *George Wright Forum*, journal of the George Wright Society (GWS), is celebrating the centennial of the NPS by launching a decade-long essay series to run until 2016, the centennial year. In soliciting the essays, the editors challenge the agency to bring voices into the centennial conversation that represent a broad range of viewpoints, including those not traditionally part of the conversation on America's national parks. The GWS Board will commission essays from well-known writers who have a demonstrated interest in national parks but, just as importantly, they will also seek out analysts who are addressing important issues that are relevant to parks but who have not yet applied their thinking in that way.

The first essay in the series is "On the Brink of Greatness: National Parks and the Next Century" by Dwight Pitcaithley, retired NPS Chief Historian. This essay (Volume 24:2) is available online at <http://www.georgewright.org/>. Comments are welcome.

The Board welcomes the participation of George Wright Society members and other readers of *The George Wright Forum* in this ambitious journey of discovery. Who are the people who have inspired NPS employees in their work? Is there a philosopher, an essayist, or a novelist whose work has influenced NPS approaches to issues affecting parks? Are there scientists, anthropologists, or historians whose thinking should be brought to the attention of the parks community?

The Board is soliciting suggestions for topics that should be included in the Centennial Essay Series. It would be helpful if the suggestions were accompanied by the name and contact information of one or more individuals to develop the ideas into an essay. The GWS Publications Committee also welcomes specific proposals for essays from authors themselves. Again, proposals can come from any field of endeavor so long as they consider important issues related to the NPS as an agency, or the resources of the national park system. All submissions—whether suggested topics, proposals for essays, or complete essays—should go to: The George Wright Society, P.O. Box 65, Hancock, MI 49930-0065 USA, or by e-mail to [info@georgewright.org](mailto:info@georgewright.org).

Those interested in the future of the National Parks will also be interested in an earlier essay by historian Richard Sellars (Volume 24:1 (2007)), "The National Park System and the Historic American Past: A Brief Overview and Reflection." **To read back issues go to** [http://www.georgewright.org/backlist\\_forum.html](http://www.georgewright.org/backlist_forum.html)

### **Projects in Parks: Identifying Contact Period Sites on St. John USVI**

In many places in the world, little is known about the actual interactions between indigenous populations, Europeans, and Africans during the early period of European expansion, despite its importance to global history. The U.S. Virgin Island of St. John is no exception. The Danish government sent out settlers to the island, in defiance of both British and Spanish imperial claims, as early as 1672. The settlers found "only a few Indians" on the island. By the time of formal colonization, 18<sup>th</sup> century St. John was completely deserted of all indigenous inhabitants. Who were the indigenous inhabitants that were encountered at the time of European contact, and what became of them? How did the Danish colonists adapt to new social, economic, and environmental conditions?

The Virgin Island NP Archeological Program has recently undertaken research to identify sites that date to European contact and colonization. Information from excavations at these sites will be used to explore relations between Taino and Island-Carib Indians, Europeans, and Africans during this time period. The goal is to better understand social relations during this tempestuous period of Caribbean proto-history.

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