



Historical Happenings

Notes on Cultural Resource Management in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS Regional News:

Headquarters—The FWS report for Section 3 of the Preserve America Executive Order (13287) has been submitted to the Advisory Council. Contact Eugene Marino for more information.

Headquarters—As part of the new Cultural Resources website (to be launched later this fall) an image library of FWS cultural resources photos will be added to the website. FWS Cultural Resource staff are asked to send any images they may have to Eugene Marino for inclusion in the image library.

Region 5—Rare Elk Skull and Antlers Unearthed at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

A rare eastern elk skull and antlers were recently excavated from a wetland impoundment on Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Basom, New York near Buffalo. During a dike construction project the elk parts were found nearly six feet down in the muck soil layer. When it died, the elk was a mature 6 x 6 (12 point), five year old bull. The find included the antlers, the top of the skull, and both lower jaw bones. The muck did an excellent job of preserving the specimen and only one antler point was damaged during the excavation.

Depending on its age, the antlers may be able to tell us about a now-extinct variety of North American elk. The eastern elk is an extinct subspecies of elk that at one time inhabited most of the eastern United States. The elk was extirpated from western New York State around 1820 and by the late nineteenth century the subspecies was completely extinct. Loss of habitat and overhunting were the main causes of its decline. A piece of the elk bone has been sent to a laboratory for dating.

The refuge plans to have the specimen preserved and displayed in the visitor center. Most people are unaware that these animals once roamed New York. This find offers a unique opportunity for the refuge to give visitors a look back in time at the wildlife history of the western New York area.

Other Agency News

ACHP—Two agencies received awards from the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation during the Fall Business Meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia, on November 18, 2004.

The National Park Service's Lewis and Clark Expedition Corps of Discovery II traveling exhibit also received a Chairman's Award. This four-year effort interprets the importance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition through a traveling exhibit that is retracing the route of the original expedition and shadowing its timeline two centuries after the events.

NPS—Is celebrating the centennial of their museum program. See <http://heritagenews.cr.nps.gov/index/Index.cfm> for more information.

National NGAPRA—databases are on-line and available for use by federal agencies. Information on affiliations with a draft notice, without a draft notice, and collection not yet identified to an affiliation can be reviewed at their website.

See <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/notices/index.htm> for more information.

National NAGPRA—Has issued Section 10.13-Future Application of NAGPRA-in the Federal Register. They will be holding a public teleconference for comments on November 2, 2004 at 2pm EST.

BIA—Has released a recent publication focusing on its activities and accomplishments with Native Americans. See http://www.doi.gov/accomplishments/bia_report.pdf for more information.

NPS—announces three new Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.

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Legislative News

Training News

The National Preservation Institute's Training Calendar has been updated and is available at www.npi.org.

"Protecting Archeological Sites on Eroding Shorelines: A Hay Bales Approach" is a new technical brief available from the National Park Service's Archeology and Ethnography program. Authored by Robert M. Thorne, an authority on site stabilization and preservation, the brief offers an inexpensive, yet effective method to preserve archeological sites along lakeshores. This is the latest of a series of online technical briefs offering alternative treatments to preserve and protect archeological sites as well as information about archeological contracting, collections management, public outreach and education, and other topics. www.cr.nps.gov/aad/pubs/techbr

HERITAGE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

Meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology, La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico
April 5-10, 2005 contact Erve Chambers, c/o Society for Applied Anthropology, P.O. Box 2436, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-2436; sfaa2005@sfaa.net; (405) 843-5113.

Federal Register News

For November—SUMMARY:

Native American Liaison News

Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY!

The foundations are being prepared and the house will soon take shape

Exciting news! Contractor David Rogers has begun the task of digging the foundation trenches, pouring the concrete post footings, and transporting the posts and beams out to the site from the Old Shop. It is anticipated that the superstructure of the house will be in place by the end of December!

THEN, after the holidays, volunteer work parties will be devoted to working on the interior, installing the benches and bunks and producing the objects of everyday life that will turn the house into a home (and an incredible educational resource). There will be many different volunteer opportunities, so if you've been thinking about volunteering, we hope you'll come out and experience the Next Phase!

Last Sunday work party before the holidays will be December 12, 2004! Join us then to celebrate the progress made and look forward to the next phase!

CPP WISH LIST: If you have (or know someone who has) any of the following items that you'd like to share with the CPP, please contact Greg Robinson at PalixChinook@aol.com.

- Elk antler and ivories, mountain goat horn, big horn sheep horn, deer antler (for making tools/objects for interpretive display in house)
- Brain-tanned and smoked hides (for interpretive display in the house)
- Hardwood firewood such as alder (for burning in the house firepit)
- nephrite, obsidian, chert, etc.(for tool making)
- Operculum and dentalium (for interpretive display in house)
- Red ochre (for paint)
- Portable cyclone fence (ca. 4-5-month loan for the construction site)

SOME SPOTS LEFT IN MAT CREASER & NEEDLE WORKSHOP

There are still some seats available for the 11/21 mat creaser and mat needle workshop. Registration deadline is November 15, but it's recommended that you register as soon as possible. Participants will learn and begin using the wood carving techniques to make two important tools used in making cattail mats -- the creaser and needle. At the end of the class, participants will be able to borrow the necessary carving knives to complete work on a personal set. The completed tools can then be used (if desired) during the cattail mat making class on January 9, 2005 (separate registration required, and there are still spaces left). Go to the website to find more information and link to the registration form, or call/ e-mail Virginia Parks at virginia_parks@fws.gov, 503-625-4377.

INTERIOR COMMITTEE FORMING IN THE NEW YEAR

If you have particular skills and interests in traditional crafts and would like to help identify, produce, and seek out the various furnishings for the plankhouse, please consider joining the Interior Committee, which will begin work in earnest after the holidays. Participation will involve periodic group meetings and working with others on a particular element of the interior that interests you.

Picture of the Month: The stack of handsplit wall planks continues to grow after each Sunday work party.

Fabulous Fact:

Volunteers have been putting in a group average of 45 hours each Sunday! That's a week's worth of work in **one day! Thank you, Volunteers**

Requests for Information

The Service is increasing its participation in the National Trails System, the Trails for All Americans program, and promoting our part in the CDC initiative, Trails for Health. As part of that effort we are trying to increase the visibility of the Service in the National Trails System. The National Trails System has three components: National Scenic Trails, such as the Appalachian Trail; National Historic Trails, such as the Trail of Tears; and National Recreation Trails, unique local or regional trails. National Scenic and Historic Trails are congressionally designated, National Recreation Trails are designated by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior.

There are 15 National Historic Trails in the NTS. Seven of them have NWRs or NFHs along them or near them. The Service is interested in certifying refuges and hatcheries along NHTs. Certification is a partnership that helps landowners protect and preserve their historic trail properties, and share them with others. Nathan Caldwell, the newest addition to the WO transportation staff, will be working with interested regions and field stations on the certification process. For more information and a list of the NHTs and NWRs or NFHs associated with them, contact Nathan by email or at phone (703) 358-2205.