



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

September 2008

Historical Happenings

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



Historical Happenings provides information on the USFWS Cultural Resources Management program. Information comes from sources such as the Regional Historic Preservation Officers, websites, new sources, as well as other cultural resource management professionals.

Issues are also available on the USFWS Cultural Resources website <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov>. Submissions are encouraged and can be made via email. Please contact Eugene Marino at Eugene_Marino@fws.gov for submission guidelines.

FWS Regional News:

Washington Office—

The 2008 FWS Preserve America Grants are open! The announcement and application can be found at www.fws.gov/historicpreservation or at www.nfwf.org. The application period goes until November 1, 2008.

Region 3—The Bertrand will welcome a new curator. Dean Knudsen is presently the museum curator at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania. He has also worked at Scotts Bluff National Monument, Harry S. Truman Historic Site, and NPS Midwest Archeological Center. Dean is a graduate of Dana College (B.S. in History) and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln (M.A. in Museum Science). He is a writer and published the following book: *An Eye for History; The Art and Life of William Henry Jackson*.

Dean will be arriving at DeSoto around mid-October.

Region 4—

“Dig the Fun at Okefenokee NWR”

Participants in the Junior Refuge Ranger Summer Camp got a first-hand experience at being amateur archaeologists at the historic Chesser Island Homestead, located in Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Ranger Sallie Gentry created the exercise, using old porcelain marbles and items from the Homestead buried in the sandy yard. Separate areas were marked off with flagging tape and buried items outlined and identified using wooden skewers. Small items were discovered using sifting trays made from screen and wood strips. The dig was part of many fun and educational activities that the kids took part in during the three-day camp (figure 1).



Figure 1. Junior archaeologists work at the Archaeology camp at Okefenokee

Submitted by: Sallie Gentry, Refuge Ranger, Okefenokee NWR, Folkston, GA

Region 5— This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933, the CCC was the most popular experiment of the New Deal. The program had two major missions: to provide jobs to unemployed men during the Great Depression, and to help preserve the natural resources of the United States. The men of the CCC completed significant projects around the nation as well as in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Millions of trees were planted, and thousands of miles of trail built and telephone line strung. Many of the CCC camps also helped build the infrastructure of many national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges around the country. Here in Virginia, the state’s first six state parks – Douthat, Westmoreland, Hungry Mother, Fairy Stone, Staunton River, and Seashore (now called First Landing State Park) - were all built by the CCC.

To commemorate the accomplishments and contributions of the CCC, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge recently held a workshop to honor Mike Eaton

(figure 2), who was a member of the CCC camp located on what is now Refuge property in the Pungo area of Virginia Beach.



Figure 2. Mike Eaton, former CCC worker poses with his YCC ball cap and commemorative plaque for his hard work.

Eaton served with the CCC from late 1937 through early 1939. He recalled being the only local resident of the area camp, and one of the few men who was able to read and write. He remembered taking part in constructing the dune line from Virginia Beach southward to the North Carolina state line. A part of that dune line still exists along the Refuge's oceanfront, providing protection from ocean over wash into brackish Back Bay. Eaton also played a key role in the establishment of Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge by assisting the first Refuge Manager, Harry Bailey. When the Refuge was established by presidential proclamation in 1938, Bailey was a "one man show" with no staff. Eaton helped him manage the Refuge and provided administrative support.

After Eaton shared his CCC recollections the group of volunteers, staff members, and the Refuge's Youth Conservation Corps headed over to the adjacent John Cromwell farm. There, the group was able to view one of the original camp barracks that served as CCC living quarters (figure 3). Viewing this basic wooden shelter helped the group understand the somewhat Spartan living conditions that these men endured.



Figure 3. Tour of CCC living quarters

Not only was this event special because it commemorated the 75th anniversary of the CCC, but it

also marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. With the advent of World War II, the CCC program came to an end in the early 1940s, but the organization's conservation legacy endures. The CCC became an inspiration for later organizations with similar missions, such as the Student Conservation Association, Young Adult Conservation Corps, Youth Conservation Corps, Vista, and AmeriCorps. These modern day national conservation organizations, along with many others at the local and state level, all have their roots based upon the organizational model established by President Roosevelt's CCC program. These organizations and their members - like Mike Eaton and the CCC of 75 years ago - continue to make valuable contributions toward the preservation and protection of our public lands.

Region 7—The Aleutian Islands, set aside as a reserve for seabirds in 1913, were remote, isolated and sparsely populated. In 1980 the Aleutian Islands reserve became part of the Alaska Maritime NWR, a still isolated and remote corner of the world. Their isolation was shattered between 1942 and 1944 when the islands became a battleground between the US and Japan for mastery of the Pacific Ocean. Debris from World War II is pervasive across the chain. In addition to the Japanese bases on Attu and Kiska, there were major American bases on Amchitka, Adak, Umnak and Unalaska. Smaller outposts and airfields dotted many of the other islands. In 1984 the Japanese remains on Kiska and the Battlefield on Attu were designated National Historic Landmarks.

The war came late to the Aleutians. In April 1942, Lt. Col. James Doolittle led 16 B-25's on a bombing run over Tokyo in retaliation for Pearl Harbor. Although the raid caused little damage, the eyes of the Japanese Command turned north to the Aleutian Islands and Midway. The M I Operation was a bold plan to secure Japan's northern flank and control the sea lanes of the North Pacific. A portion of the Japanese fleet would attack Dutch Harbor in the Eastern Aleutians, drawing the remnants of the U.S Navy into the jaws of overwhelming Japanese naval forces at Midway. On June 3, and again on the 4th, Dutch Harbor was bombed while the main Japanese fleet was being hammered at Midway. To save face, and to secure their northern flank, the occupation of Attu and Kiska proceeded as scheduled on June 7, 1942. For the year that the Japanese held the islands they turned Kiska Harbor into a mighty fortress with batteries of anti-aircraft and coastal artillery. In late July 1943, with an American invasion weeks away, the Imperial Navy entered Kiska Harbor in clear weather, evacuated 5,138 men, and escaped. Before they left the Japanese disabled all of the weapons left behind on the island.

Today the military remains (Figure 4) in the Aleutians are the best preserved examples of World War II

battlefields and military bases in the world. Abandoned precipitously and isolated for over 60 years, they largely escaped the salvage and redevelopment that obliterated the physical remains of the war elsewhere in the Pacific, Asia, Europe and Africa.



Figure 4. Remains of a Japanese minisub, one of only 5 known examples in the world

The big guns abandoned the end of the war remain in place but natural deterioration and vandalism put their conservation and protection at risk. In 2002 the FWS reported three- 155 mm anti aircraft guns had been stolen from Little Kiska. In cooperation with the FWS the National Park Service secured funding for an inventory and condition assessment of all the remaining pieces. For five days in 2007, the team, led by Dr. Dirk Spennemann, measured, photographed and described the guns (Figure 5). The American and Japanese guns are the only artifacts of their kind available for study, replication, and interpretation.



Figure 5. 75mm anti aircraft gun on Kiska one of many big gun remains on the island

As a result of this survey and realizing the condition and importance of these long neglected remains (treasures, etc), NPS applied for and received an American Battlefield Protection Program Grant to conduct a more thorough inventor of the island. The goal is to finally acquire a complete inventory of the Japanese, American and Canadian remains. The current NHL listing includes only the Japanese occupation of Kiska. The American and Canadian invasion beaches and post invasion encampments will be incorporated into an amended nomination and accorded the recognition they deserve. Ultimately we hope to have a management and interpretation plan for the World War II remains on the Alaska Maritime NWR.

Region 8—will be hosting a Cultural Resources training course in Las Vegas NV the week of December 1, 2008. Registration will be through DOI Learn. Contact Eugene Marino or Nick Valentine for more information.

Other Agency News

DOI-- ST. LOUIS, Mo. – Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett and Under Secretary of Agriculture Mark Rey today accepted historic preservation awards on behalf of their departments, honoring the heritage tourism and history education achievements of the National Historic Trails program.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation presented the departments its Chairman’s Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation to recognize the exemplary accomplishments of The National Historic Trails program, which is part of the National Trails System. The departments of the Interior and Agriculture jointly administer the congressionally designated National Historic Trails and National Scenic Trails programs.

“There is no better strategy than National Historic Trails for spurring heritage tourism, public history education, and creating unique local links to our shared national story,” said John L. Nau, III, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. “It is absolutely appropriate that we recognize their importance here in Missouri, a state that is directly connected to one-third of our 18 historic trails, as we celebrate 40 years since Congress created the system.”

“This award recognizes the outstanding vision, excellent management, and hard work of a number of dedicated Interior and Agriculture employees,” Deputy Secretary Scarlett said. “I want to commend and thank them not only for the high quality of their work but also for their commitment and dedication to the historic preservation goals of the National Historic Trails program.”

Interior agencies that play the largest part in administering the trails are the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service. For the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service is the principal responsible agency.

The National Trails System is a network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails created by the National Trails System Act of 1968 and this year is celebrating 40 years of service to the nation. These trails provide for outdoor recreation needs, promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and preservation of open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources, and encourage public access and citizen involvement. To date, there are 18 National Historic Trails. These trails are created by congressional declaration

The presentation took place at a public meeting at Union Station, Missouri, during the summer business meeting of the Advisory Council on Historic

Preservation. Missouri Governor Matt Blunt, who is the presidentially appointed representative for the nation's governors to the Advisory Council attended and participated in the session.

BLM—BLM Soil Scientists Contribute to National Exhibition at Smithsonian Museum

The significance of soil and the history of its management are highlighted in a new national exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, the Bureau of Land Management announced today. The BLM is a collaborator with the Smithsonian and numerous other organizations in the support, promotion, and design of the new exhibition, called "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil." The 5,000-square-foot exhibition recently opened to the public and will be featured at the natural history museum, located on 10th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., for 18 months. After this period, the exhibition is expected to travel to 10 museums across the country, through the year 2013, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

"Dig It!" features a monolith, or soil profile showing the layers formed in the soil, of the state soil for each of the 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. The state soils were designated based on their special significance to the economy of the particular states. The monoliths for Scobey (the Montana state soil) and Orovada (the Nevada state soil) were collected on BLM land. Many of the other state soils in the West occur extensively on BLM lands as well. "Dig It" also includes models, interactive displays, and videos demonstrating water, nutrient, and gas movement in soils, soil formation, and the importance of soils in people's daily lives. The exhibition illustrates how healthy soils are linked to human health, economic strength, environmental health, and food security, and how human activities affect soils. BLM employees Bill Ypsilantis, Jim Renthal, Rob Roudabush, and Jack Hamby were instrumental in providing resources for those portions of the exhibit featuring soil management on public lands.

The BLM recognizes the vital role of soils in the health and sustainability of America's public lands. The BLM's commitment to effective stewardship of the nation's soil resources is demonstrated in its work to reduce accelerated erosion, maintain healthy native plant and animal communities, and to complete a comprehensive soil survey on public land. The BLM is joining with other Federal partners, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to classify and interpret the baseline soil information that is a measure of the potential for all land uses.

The BLM manages more land – 258 million acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The

Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

NPS—HABS turns 50

"American Place: The Historic American Building survey at 75" shows accomplishments of this program from its New Deal beginnings to present. The exhibit at the DOI museum will run through November 14.

National NAGPRA—Oct. 10, 2008: [NAGPRA Training coming to San Diego, CA. Registration due Sept. 19, 2008.](#)

Oct. 11-12, 2008: [Review Committee Meeting in San Diego, CA](#)

ACHP— Preserve America Stewards to Honor Volunteer Efforts

During the Preserve America Presidential Awards ceremony today, Mrs. Laura Bush, First Lady and Honorary Chair of Preserve America, announced the initiation of a new program: Preserve America Stewards, which will honor exemplary volunteer efforts at historic resources around the country. Read more here. Download Stewards application for designation here as a pdf or Word document.

Legislative News

President Bush signed the Housing/Mortgage relief bill (HR 3221) bill on July 30th with three amendments affecting the federal rehabilitation tax credit, including a repeal of Alternative Minimum Tax limitations on the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit; an increase from 35% to 50% in the percentage of tax-exempt activity allowable in the sale/leaseback of tax credit projects; and, a provision requiring state qualified allocation plans (QAPs) take into account historic properties in the allocations of low-income housing tax credits, making it more lucrative for projects that twin the low-income housing and federal rehab tax credits.

Amtrak Reauthorization Bill Passes with Compromise 106
Language

The House passed the Senate-approved Amtrak reauthorization bill (S. 294) in the form of a substitute this week along with compromise language that would require a study of streamlining of Section 106 requirements with respect to the siting of railroad facilities. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman James Oberstar (D-MN), who opposes any exemption from historic preservation reviews, proposed the study after Rep. Bill Schuster (R-PA) tried unsuccessfully to amend the House version of the bill (HR 6003) with an exemption from Section 4(f) for railway facilities nationwide during House consideration of the bill.

House-Passed Highway Bill Includes Historic Bridge Exception Provision

On Thursday, July 24th, the House passed H.R. 3999, the "National Highway Bridge Construction Act of 2007" by a vote of 367-55. During floor consideration of the measure, Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH) introduced an amendment that was accepted by voice vote to allow a state performance plan to provide for increased inspection of a historic bridge "in lieu of replacement." This exception to replacement would be based on a determination made by the Secretary of Transportation that "it is appropriate based on the age,

design, traffic characteristics, and any known deficiency of the bridge."

Training, Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

There are a number of activities at the Cathlapotle plankhouse. For information on these events take a look at www.plankhouse.org

Partnership for the National Trails System

Preserving the Historic Road; Albuquerque, New Mexico; September 11-14, 2008 <http://historicroads.org>

National Trust for Historic Preservation
Tulsa, Oklahoma October 21-25, 2008

The Missouri River History Conference Steamers, Sandbars, and Snags Reflections of the Steamboat Era on the Missouri

Ponca State Park, Ponca, Nebraska
September 4-7th, 2008