This year’s annual Project Archaeology Coordinator’s Conference was a great success. The weather held off long enough for all of us to arrive at the ranch and then “let it snow, let it snow, let it snow”!

Nineteen coordinators representing fourteen states attended the conference this year. Many seasoned coordinators attended, but there were a few new faces as well. Mary Derbish from Colorado, Daryl Michael from Ohio, Jim Whitaker from California, Pat Blevens from New Hampshire and Michelle San Antonio from Montana.

Educational evaluation and professional development were this year’s topics. Linda Clark, a professional evaluator, taught the principles and techniques of evaluation. Coordinators also helped evaluate the electronic version of The Pawnee Earthlodge investigation.

The second annual PA Silent Auction was another great success. All the wonderful items lugged from near and far brought in $450 for two scholarships next year. Last year’s auction helped Pat Blevens and Joelle Clark attend the conference this year. Thank you all for bringing such unique and beautiful items.

Next year’s conference is tentatively going to be held in the bluegrass hills of Kentucky in October. Gwynn Henderson has started making the arrangements, we’ll keep you posted.
Hello Everyone,

We certainly enjoyed seeing many of you at the Annual Coordinator’s Conference at the B-Bar Ranch in October. We thought it was one of our best conferences yet! Your participation is essential for the maintenance and growth of the program, so thank you for coming. We hope that all of our coordinators and Project Archaeology supporters can join us next year in Kentucky. A synthesis of the participant evaluations from this year’s conference is available on request.

Curriculum Update – Our new curriculum, Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter, was reviewed by 16 educators and 8 archaeologists over the summer. Linda Clark, our program evaluator, compiled the results and presented them at the conference in October. Most archaeologists thought the unit presented archaeology accurately and would be an excellent teaching tool. The educators liked the curriculum, but some worried that parts of it might be too difficult for younger students and too time consuming to use in the classroom. Everyone gave us some good suggestions for improving, streamlining, and making it more age appropriate. Grant Wiggins, primary author of Understanding by Design, said the curriculum unit was “Very solid as curriculum, engaging for kids, challenging but doable.” He gave us some excellent suggestions for improving the enduring understandings and essential questions.

We will pilot the curriculum in two classrooms here in Bozeman this fall and winter and in Southeast Alaska in the spring. Results will be used to revise and finish the guide.

Thanks to all who gave generously of their time and expertise to review the draft curriculum. We need friends like you to show us our errors and show us how to make the final product better. Your participation will help us produce a better guide for everyone to use.

Derrick Baldwin (BLM Heritage Education Specialist) Virginia Wulfkühle (Kansas Project Archaeology Coordinator) and I staffed a booth at the National Council for Social Studies Conference in Kansas City, Missouri in November. We talked to several hundred social studies educators, and presented a session on investigating archaeology on the Internet, featuring the Pawnee Earthlodge interactive investigation. About 25 very interested educators attended the session.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a very happy and healthy new year!

Best Regards,
Jeanne

Please Note:
Project Archaeology Headquarters address has changed. We are now at:
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News Flashes From Around the USA by Crystal Alegria

Alaska - We are pleased to announce that the Office of History and Archaeology in Anchorage, Alaska has assigned Richard VanderHoek to be the new Project Archaeology coordinator for Alaska. Richard attended the Project Archaeology workshop in Coffman Cove in November. He was excited to experience the new curriculum, Investigating Shelter, first hand and plans to try it out on his daughter.

Utah - The Utah Museum of Natural History in Salt Lake City has just hired Joni Lindsay to coordinate all Project Archaeology activities for the state of Utah. Joni has a background in History and Education, and is excited to be a part of the Project Archaeology team. Joni is a traveler with her favorite cities being Paris, Dublin, Athens and Florence.

We look forward to working with both Joni and Richard. You can contact them at jlindsey@umnh.utah.edu and richard_vanderhoek@dnr.state.ak.us
San Diego Facilitator Training

We are pleased to announce that Southern California has joined the Project Archaeology Network. The San Diego Archaeological Center hosted a Project Archaeology Facilitator Training on October 14-16. Annemarie Cox and Jim Whitaker organized and helped train twenty-nine new facilitators. Annemarie and Jim have already recruited a few of those newly trained facilitators to help with two teacher workshops planned for the New Year. Welcome Southern California!

International Heritage Education Partnership formed, Intrigue Translated into Spanish by Steve Fosberg, BLM New Mexico Cultural Resources Program Leader

Archaeologists and educators from New Mexico recently joined forces with colleagues in Mexico to expand Heritage Education programs on both sides of the border. The village of Villa Ahumada, Mexico hosted a three-day teacher workshop from September 28-30, 2005 in which twenty-six teachers from throughout the state of Chihuahua learned how to foster a sense of site stewardship among Mexico's youth. The workshop, or taller, was made possible through a partnership among federal and state agencies and non-profit organizations in the United States and Mexico. The workshop was the first of a series of cooperative projects carried out by the BLM, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (HPD), the SRI Foundation, and the State of Chihuahua’s Instituto Chihuahuense de la Cultura (ICHICULT) designed to improve teacher training and cultural resource protection.

The taller exposed primary and secondary teachers to educational materials, lesson plans, resources, and classroom activities now widely deployed in the United States. Lessons were drawn from Intrigue of the Past.

Desiring to expand Project Archaeology to an international context, the BLM's State Archeologist, Stephen Fosberg, and HPD’s State Archeologist Glenna Dean, traveled to Chihuahua in April of 2005 to meet officials of ICHICULT.

ICHICULT’s mission includes teacher training and the Director, Jorge Carrera Robles, enthusiastically supports the notion of joint teacher workshops. A team of specialists from ICHICULT translated Intrigue of the Past into Spanish.

Spanish versions of Intrigue of the Past can be obtained from the New Mexico BLM, P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502-0115. For information concerning when the next teacher training will be that utilizes the translated Intrigue, please contact Carol Ellick at cjellick@srfoundation.org.
Archaeologist Terry Fifield in a partially excavated shell midden

Coffman Cove Community Archaeology Project

By Jeanne Moe, National Director of Project Archaeology

Project Archaeology is a major part of the educational component of the Coffman Cove Community Archaeology Project (CCCAP) on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska. This innovative project spearheaded by Terry Fifield, Craig Ranger District Archaeologist, brings together the community of Coffman Cove, the Tlingit Tribe, the US Forest Service, the State of Alaska, and the Southeast Island School District, to study and protect the Coffman Cove Archaeologist Site, a multi-component site underlying the town. In the summer of 2004, Cali Letts, Project Archaeology’s curriculum consultant, and I conducted an introductory workshop and planning session in Thorne Bay, Alaska and decided to offer a second two-day workshop to teachers from Prince of Wales Island and Southeast Alaska.

Crystal Alegria and I taught the planned workshop in the Coffman Cove city hall on November 3-4, 2005 using our new curriculum, Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter. Twelve teachers and archaeologists from Prince of Wales Island and Petersburg, Alaska attended. Terry Fifield and Mark McCallum, Tongass National Forest Archaeologist, led field trips at the Coffman Cove Site and a newly discovered shell midden found as construction of the new ferry terminal progressed. Teachers and archaeologists alike could readily put some of the curriculum concepts into practice at the sites and relate the issues surrounding archaeological protection to classroom education.

Lorraine Pierce and Julie Yates, fourth and fifth grade teachers from Klawock, remarked, “Our students want longer and more involved units. The new shelter curriculum will be great.” Lorraine and Julie plan to pilot the entire curriculum in May.

A new shelter investigation focusing on Northwest Coast Plank houses is under production and will be available for piloting in May. Crystal and I had the honor of meeting Nathan Jackson, a Tlingit master carver and plank house construction expert, during our stay in Alaska. Mr. Jackson gave us lots of good information and insights and we hope to involve him and other Tlingit elders in planning and writing the investigation.

Shelter Investigations Update by Erika Malo, Student Research Assistant for Project Archaeology

The Earthfast Shelter Investigation is currently under construction here at Project Archaeology headquarters. We are working closely with Maureen Malloy, and the King’s Reach site archaeologist, Dennis Pogue, collecting as much information about the site as we can. Currently we are trying to find a descendant community of the King’s Reach plantation. These descendents may provide us with an oral history for the investigation. The visual aspects of the piece (graphics, pictures, etc.) are very far along, needing only a few tweaks and additions here and there.

Richard VanderHoek, Alaska Project Archaeology Coordinator and Abe Horpestad, Klawock teacher, doing field observation.