Save the date for the annual Project Archaeology Coordinator’s Conference October 6-10. We are meeting at O’Leno State Park, near Gainesville, Florida. Sarah Miller (Florida PA Coordinator) and the Florida Public Archaeology Network, (FPAN) are helping to organize this year’s conference. We will spend Monday thru Wednesday at O’Leno State Park, and will travel to St. Augustine on Thursday. Sarah will lead site tours of the Castillo de San Marcos and the Kingsley Plantation. Participants will experience informal curricula that FPAN has developed to interpret these sites. Thursday night we will stay at the Bayfront Hilton in downtown St. Augustine.

For the book discussion this year we are reading “Archaeologists and Local Communities: Partners in Exploring the Past” edited by Linda Derry (Alabama Project Archaeology Coordinator) and Maureen Malloy (Chesapeake Region Project Archaeology Coordinator.) Linda and Maureen will lead this discussion.

The agenda will be packed full of professional development opportunities and we will work together to move Project Archaeology forward. This year we will continue our planning for developing and disseminating Project Archaeology materials that we began in 2007. National Project Archaeology staff members are currently developing short presentations of Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter for our coordinators to introduce the new materials at state and regional teacher conferences. Additionally, Project Archaeology is currently involved in several outreach projects in conjunction with data recovery under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act at both the national and state level. We will begin planning for large scale projects that may involve several states or perhaps even the entire nation. There are some exciting possibilities and challenges ahead and we will use this conference to prepare to for them.

If you have not signed up for the conference, but would like to attend, please contact Crystal at (406) 994-6925 or calegria@montana.edu.

Hope to see you in Florida!
Kansas City hosted a Missouri -Kansas Teacher Training workshop on July 10th and 11th, 2008. Eighteen teachers, an archaeologist, a historic interpreter, and a nature center employee learned how to present archaeology to students they work with. The workshop was sponsored by a grant from the American Honda Foundation, National Project Archaeology, and the Kansas Historical Society. The Missouri Department of Conservation provided its wonderful Discovery Center for the meeting. Kansas Public Archaeologist, Virginia Wulfkuhle, and Missouri Project Archaeology Coordinator, Gail Lundeen, facilitated the workshop. The Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter and “Investigating a Slave Cabin” curricula were used.

Many of the teachers have significant percentages of African American students in their classes. Substantive and honest discussion helped equip educators to present this topic to their students. The participants were highly enthusiastic and dove right in to the activities. Some of the comments received were, “I can’t wait to implement this,” “Thank you for all these activities. This will be easy to implement.”

The 2008 workshop, in addition to the one held in Kansas City, KS in June 2007, lends credence to the song, “Everything’s Up to Date in Kansas City!”

Implementing Investigating Shelter

This summer Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter (PAIS) was implemented in seven professional development workshops using six different Shelter Investigations. A total of ninety educators participated and were trained in PAIS.

Julie Yates, an Alaska teacher, kicked it off using “Investigating a Plank House.” Crystal Alegria (Montana PA Coordinator) held a four day course using “Investigating a Plains Tipi.” Gail Lundeen (Missouri PA Coordinator) and Virginia Wulfkuhle (Kansas PA Coordinator) used “Investigating a Pawnee Earthlodge” at a workshop in Manhattan, Kansas. Mary Derbish (Colorado PA Coordinator) did “Investigating a Ute Rockshelter” in Denver. The Utah Museum of Natural History in partnership with the Utah Educator’s Network and Project Archaeology implemented an online course using “Investigating a Ute Rockshelter.” Gail and Virginia did a second workshop in Kansas City, Missouri using “Investigating a Slave Cabin.”

To finish up the summer, Crystal Alegria did a second workshop using the “Investigating a Historic Farmhouse” investigation.

Upcoming PAIS professional development opportunities include an online course using “Investigating a Ute Rockshelter” in January, “Investigating a Plains Tipi” and “Investigating a Plains Tipi—Part Two” in Montana next June. A facilitator’s training and teacher training in Missouri (dates yet to be determined) and a teacher training in San Diego, CA in December.

If you are interested in doing a teacher training using the PAIS materials please contact Crystal (calegia@montana.edu) or Jeanne (jmoe@montana.edu).
Project Archaeology entered the exciting new world of online learning this year. The Utah Museum of Natural History and the Utah Education Network piloted the first Project Archaeology course for teachers in June and July 2008 in partnership with National Project Archaeology. Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter and “Investigating a Rock Shelter,” based on a Ute habitation site in northwestern Colorado formed the basis of the course. The teachers raved about the curricular materials and are ready to use them in the fall. We discovered a few wrinkles in the programming which we’re ironing out now in preparation for a second run beginning in January 2009. The course certainly offers a promising way to reach educators. Project Archaeology state coordinators met on March 25, 2008 in conjunction with the Society for American Archaeology meetings in Vancouver, British Columbia. We had a small, but very productive meeting and succeeded in drafting a basic outline for a materials development and dissemination plan. Dr. Susan Chandler, current secretary of SAA and President of Alpine Archaeological Consultants in Montrose, Colorado, joined us for a discussion of using education as part of data recovery projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Dr. Chandler gave us some excellent suggestions for approaching Cultural Resources Management professionals with viable and mutually beneficial education projects. We will continue these discussions at the Annual Coordinator’s Conference scheduled for October 6-10, 2008 at O’Leno State Park near Gainesville, Florida.

Ms. Crystal Alegria, Montana Network Coordinator and Montana Coordinator, and I recently presented Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter at the 21st Century Conference for Learn & Serve, Character Education, and After School Programs in Helena, Montana. We focused on the ethics and citizenship education built into the new curriculum. Classroom teachers and service-learning coordinators were very interested in incorporating Project Archaeology materials into their programming.

Please join me in welcoming the Chesapeake Region Project Archaeology Program to our national network (see article on page 4). We’re looking forward to seeing you at the conference in October.

Best regards,
Jeanne

The Montana Project Archaeology program has expanded into the stewardship arena. Montana Project Archaeology, the Lewistown BLM Office in Montana, and Montana State University have formed a partnership to develop a Site Stewardship Program in Montana.

The program will initially focus on monitoring archaeological sites in the Upper Missouri River breaks National Monument lands. This stretch of the Missouri River has abundant historic and pre-contact sites. We hope to expand the program to the entire state within five years. We are looking forward to reaching new audiences with archaeology education in Montana through the Site Stewardship Program. By Crystal Alegria, Montana Coordinator
The Chesapeake Region Project Archaeology program held its first facilitator training workshop in the Smithsonian’s Department of Anthropology on February 8 and 9, 2008. Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, the workshop was attended by twenty archaeologists and educators from the metropolitan D.C. area, representing several institutions including the Maryland Historical Trust, Montgomery College of Maryland, Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Department, D.C. Public Schools, Versar, Inc, and the Smithsonian Institution. Three participants attended from as far away as Kansas State University. National Project Archaeology director, Jeanne Moe and archaeologist Gwynn Henderson from the Kentucky Archaeological Survey conducted the two-day training. Maureen Malloy, coordinator for Project Archaeology in the Chesapeake region, organized the workshop, assisted by Ann Kaupp of the Anthropology Outreach Office. Ann also participated in the training.

The workshop participants were introduced to Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter, completing the shelter investigation of the slave cabin at Poplar Forest, one of Thomas Jefferson’s properties. Several lessons from Intrigue of the Past were included as well. Attendees received copies of Investigating Shelter, Intrigue of the Past, and a new Facilitator’s Handbook.

The Chesapeake program hopes to offer a teacher workshop at the Smithsonian in 2009 and is also looking into the possibility of offering an online program based on the model recently developed in Utah.