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ARCHAEOLOGY: A SPECIAL ISSUE IN HONOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH
Partnerships in archaeology

Dear Washington Trust community,

As current and past Presidents of the Association for Washington Archaeology (AWA), we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the AWA. Our organizations have much in common, and we believe that a bridge between them will benefit both.

AWA is a non-profit organization of archaeologists who are concerned about preservation and interpretation of our state’s archaeological heritage, along with other aspects of the profession of archaeology such as education, outreach, legislation, and standards of practice by archaeologists in academic, private sector, agency, and tribal contexts. We have an active membership of over 100 archaeologists and students who represent these different facets of our discipline. Many of us are employed in the cultural resource management field, as consultant or agency cultural resource specialists who regularly work with both archaeological and historic built environment elements of Washington’s history.

AWA has much in common with the Washington Trust. We are advocates for Washington State’s archaeological heritage, voicing our concerns as a group to state and federal lawmakers as legislation arises that may help, or sometimes hinder, historic preservation efforts. Like the Washington Trust, AWA also emphasizes educating the public about the importance of preserving and learning about our past. AWA also maintains close ties with the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP); DAHP staff serve on the AWA Board in an ex officio capacity, and AWA provides peer review for DAHP archaeological excavation permit applications.

We hope the coming years find the relationship between the Washington Trust and AWA strengthened—through awareness, inter-organization participation, and external outreach that combine the complementary strengths of both organizations. The AWA Board has begun an initiative to increase our members’ awareness of the goals, activities, and membership opportunities of the Washington Trust. We seek opportunities for internal participation and assistance between our organizations and external outreach and advocacy efforts. Historic preservation in Washington can only stand to benefit by the synergy of our two organizations.

Bob Kopperl  
President, Association for Washington Archaeology

Patrick McCutcheon  
Past President, Association for Washington Archaeology

Vice-President, Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

Archaeological data recovery of a Native American shell midden site along Ultsalady Bay, Camano Island, showing how close in proximity Native American archaeological resources can be to the built environment.
Youth Heritage Project: archaeology and reconstruction at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

In July, the Washington Trust hosted our fourth annual Discover Washington: Youth Heritage Project (YHP) at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, with a visit to the Cathlapotle Plankhouse in the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. The program this year addressed a variety of topics including archaeology, reconstruction, cultural landscapes, and living history. Throughout the four-day program, our inspired students and teacher participants dealt with challenging issues while exploring how the tools of historic preservation can lead to a greater understanding of our past.

YHP would not have been possible without the support of our partner organizations who helped plan an engaging curriculum for our students and provided generous funding: Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, the National Park Service, and the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. Special thanks also goes to 4Culture, the Tulalip Tribes, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Bassetti Architects, the Clark County Historic Preservation Commission, Daniels Real Estate, Greater Seattle Floors, Legacy Renovations, the Squaxin Island Tribe, and the Suquamish Tribe for additional funding assistance.

Welcome to Fort Vancouver

After being welcomed to Fort Vancouver by Superintendent Tracy Fortmann, we began YHP with a tour of the reconstructed buildings inside the palisade. Interpretive staff emphasized the science and research conducted to inform both the location of each structure and the methods used to reconstruct the Fort buildings. Despite being reconstructions, students felt the buildings successfully portrayed an accurate account of life inside the Fort.

Following the tour, students were provided time to explore the Fort on their own during the YHP selfie scavenger hunt. The selfie scavenger hunt has become a popular way for students to engage in self-expression while getting to know one another. Students were also treated to a meal cooked over an open fire in the Fort kitchen, an artillery demonstration, a series of living history vignettes at twilight, and dance lessons, all

(Continued on next page.)
courtesy of the wonderful Fort volunteers. That evening, students and teachers spent the night outdoors within the Fort palisade walls, sleeping in replicas of tents used in the Fort historically.

Archaeology Field School

The role of archaeology in interpreting history and informing decisions about reconstruction served as the primary theme at this year’s YHP. Students participated with an archaeological field school underway at the Fort, hosted by Portland State University and Washington State University Vancouver, which offered YHP students a hands-on introduction to archaeology. Not only did students learn about the processes of excavating, measuring, and recording, but they literally got their hands dirty, sifting dirt through screens under the guidance of field school students and instructors. (See page 6 to read an article about the field school.)

Reconstructed Buildings and Cultural Landscapes

Continuing on the archaeological theme, participants were able to tour the Village site along with the cultural landscape surrounding the Fort. Students discussed complex ideas about the merits of reconstruction in interpreting the past, along with the decision-making process regarding which buildings to reconstruct. Students grappled with the fact that the two reconstructed residential buildings in the Village stand as the only representation of the multicultural population center that was the largest populated settlement on the West Coast during its peak. This challenged student ideas regarding the types of buildings that best tell the story of historic events.

Students also learned that archaeological data is used not just for structures, but can be invaluable for the restoration of landscapes, agricultural settings, and formal gardens. As cultural landscapes, the orchard and gardens near the Fort offered a different perspective on the diverse roles of archaeology and the variety of resources that merit preservation.
Cathlapotle Plankhouse
To offer another perspective on reconstruction, the group also visited the Cathlapotle Plankhouse, a Chinookan plankhouse modeled after historic precedents located on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. While carefully considered efforts were taken to reconstruct the plankhouse in an authentic manner, unlike the Fort Vancouver buildings, historic interpretation was not the primary goal for the Cathlapotle project. Rather, project leaders explained to the students that the plankhouse served as an active, living structure enabling tribal members to continue practicing ceremonies and traditions thousands of years old. Students were invited to consider more thoughtfully the significance of the indigenous history of Washington State, and whether or not reconstruction is a productive way to represent that history. As a fun way to wrap up the visit to the Refuge and connect to the environment, students were treated to a canoe paddle on nearby Lake River, led by volunteers from the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership.

Living History
This year, YHP featured a new format, involving specific projects students completed for presentation at the culminating Town Hall event. One group of students focused on living history reenactments, a major element of public interaction at Fort Vancouver. Under the guidance of Fort Vancouver staff and living history volunteers, students toured the costume shop, becoming acquainted with the Fort’s extensive collection of period clothing. Working with scripts developed from historic accounts and journal entries describing events at the Fort, the group received living history training and rehearsed their respective roles. They developed characters, rehearsed scenes, learned dance steps, and even practiced nineteenth century decorum.

Artifact Storyboards
With the program’s emphasis on archaeology, the curatorial staff at Fort Vancouver designed a project that challenged students to envision different ways to exhibit archaeological artifacts. A group of students was able to work with the curatorial staff at the Fort on a storyboarding and exhibit design project. Students examined a group of artifacts collected through archaeological work at the Fort, developing a storyboard.
“Thirty-three… no, thirty-four centimeters below the datum. One more centimeter left to dig down in this corner before we’re done with the level.” The tools for measuring our digging progress are set aside. Students concentrate, brushing loose soil from artifacts and updating their excavation records.

Every summer for the past fourteen years, Fort Vancouver has partnered with Portland State University, and often with Washington State University Vancouver, for the Public Archaeology Field School. Over the summer, undergraduate and graduate students learn the bread-and-butter skills of archaeological fieldwork: survey; testing for sites through shovel probes; updating site records and site damages; mapping; photography; laboratory work; and – of course – excavating.

Survey is the identification of cultural resources through searching the ground surface in straight lines. It’s somewhat reminiscent of search-and-rescue teams in movies, but without the flashlights and shouting of names. Survey is often conducted hand-in-hand with shovel probes, since not all resources are visible on the ground surface. The Old City Cemetery is where students learn how to update information on historical grave markers and describe any damages. ‘Cemetery days’ tend to be introspective, a mix of recording the monuments and imagining the people they represent. How often these recording skills will be called upon in an archaeological career – noting past destruction, possible future damages, and building ideas for mitigation – is in the back of students’ minds as they work in contemplative silence.

Fort Vancouver also promotes an increasingly important element in contemporary archaeology: public engagement. Each student participates in the “Kids Dig” program, guiding children ages 8 to 12 in digging and recording mock excavations. Kids Dig strengthens scientific ideas like the law of superposition (in the ground, older stuff is generally buried beneath newer stuff), the importance of our shared past, and the need to record that past in order to learn from it. One of the key lessons we hope kids leave with is that the past isn’t owned by any one person, nor the artifacts that represent it.

Beyond Kids Dig, students interpret their work to the public daily. These interactions range from brief conversations about what you are doing to detailed discussions on scientific methods. Some visitors come back
week after week to hear the latest interpretation of the Fort’s diverse history. Even if it’s not explicit, these conversations reinforce the importance of archaeology: reconstructing the distinct narratives of the past; the damages of looting and the benefits of stewardship; the excitement in learning. Sharing this excitement with the public is a much-needed tool for underscoring our irreplaceable archaeological resources.

Fort Vancouver’s students have worked across the nation, many continuing in archaeology. Some return to the Fort as interns or, years later, as teachers for the same program that taught them. Even those who don’t continue in archaeology remember the lessons of stewardship and good public dissemination. They often identify field school as a cornerstone in their education. One former student said the ability to translate science and relevance to the layperson carries into almost all of his other pursuits. He laughs. “Even with my family and friends, I can share how important archaeology is so much more now. You never forget how to communicate with people like that, you know? How to share your excitement, and see that they’re excited, too.”

Field school students work in the Fort’s archaeology lab to process the summer’s artifacts. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

A field school student preparing a feature for a photograph. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

for each. With consideration to origin and significance of the artifacts, students collaborated to design unique conceptual interactive exhibits that would convey information the artifacts represented.

**Infographics**

Relaying important information in an accessible, visual format is a needed skill in the digital age. Students in the final group were tasked with relaying information related to Fort Vancouver through icons, symbols, charts, and other visual mechanisms. Through their infographics, students endeavored to convey how reconstructed buildings are effectively used to interpret the past, while providing an engaging visitor experience. Students collected data about visitation and engagement by interviewing Fort staff, volunteers, and visitors. Students formulated an objective for their infographics, compiled their data, and added visuals to help communicate their ideas.

**Town Hall**

The Vancouver Community Library hosted the culminating Town Hall event in their Columbia Room, where students presented each of their group projects to our invited panel. In addition to helpful and positive feedback, the panel also asked followup questions, allowing students to expand on the week’s activities and their experiences throughout the program. Special thanks goes to our distinguished panel: Allyson Brooks, Washington State Historic Preservation Officer; Tracy Fortmann, Superintendent of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Timothy Leavitt, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, and Mary Rose, Acting President of the Friends of Fort Vancouver.

**Upcoming**

The Washington Trust is excited to announce that the location for YHP 2016 will be Mount Rainier National Park, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. For more information about Youth Heritage Project, to see videos, connect with us on Facebook, or learn about programs from previous years, please visit our website:

discoverwashingtonyhp.aspx
Colville Indian Agency Cabin
By Don McLaughlin, Stevens County Historical Society

The Historic Colville Indian Agency in Chewelah is currently being preserved and stabilized by the Stevens County Historical Society (SCHS). Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the building is believed to have been built in 1868. From 1873 to 1885, it served as the office and home of Special Indian Agent Major John A. Simms and his wife Lucy McFadden Simms. The cabin is the only remaining structure of the five Colville Indian Agency buildings that existed in 1880. It was deemed one of Washington State’s Most Endangered Historic Places in 2013 and in November of 2014, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) issued a permit for phase two of the project.

The building was owned by the Dr. S. P. McPherson family from 1906-2010 when it was donated to SCHS by the McPherson Estate. Janet Thomas, President of SCHS, currently spearheads the preservation work. In the recent investigation of the Colville Military Road, conducted by SCHS for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), it was determined that the Colville Agency at Chewelah was located on the ancient Indian trail that subsequently became the Military Road.

Phase one of the stabilization and preservation process removed the rotten front porch which allowed air to circulate under the building. The interior remodel of the home (circa 1974) was removed in 2011. Volunteers of SCHS and the Chewelah Historical Society have completed extensive research of the history of the building, and remains ongoing.

Archaeological investigation data recovery of the building’s front porch and foundation has been completed. In phase two of the project, workers will also remove the fireplace and exterior chimney (circa 1920) on the east side and detach the car port (circa 1974). The windows and doors will be removed, along with the interior floor and insulation from the ceiling. The doors and windows will be preserved and reinstalled after completion of the foundation work including new sill logs. The building will be jacked up and placed on the new foundation. At that time, the ceiling will receive new insulation and the interior floor and the porch will be replaced. All wooden surfaces will be preserved and the building will be chinked inside and out.

Phase three of the stabilization and preservation process will focus on the final displays such as furniture and equipment necessary to operate the facility as a museum. A monument on the grounds will fly the flags of the modern tribes served by the Colville Agency from 1873-1883. At that time,
The ancestors of the Colville, Spokane, Kalispel and part of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe were served from this agency.

In November of 2014, the Spokane Tribe of Indians conducted archaeological retrieval of artifacts from the front porch area. The dig was supervised by James Harrison III, the Principal Investigator for the Spokane Tribe, under the direction of John Matt, Culture Director. Over the course of seven days, in bitter cold and wind, the seven-person crew labored to complete this portion of the archaeological investigation. Results were encouraging. They found many artifacts including what looks to be the vest and badge of Agent Simms. A 45-75 spent cartridge round from a buffalo gun was discovered. Several coins turned up as well as a lapel pin from the Modern Woodmen of America of which Dr. McPherson was a member.

In July and August of 2015, Kevin Lyons, Cultural Resources Project Manager and Tribal Archaeologist, conducted an investigation into the areas of the foundation to be disturbed by the lifting of the building under phase two of the stabilization process. Eight pit sites for the lifting of the building were chosen for examination. The crew consisted of local volunteers from the McPherson family, SCHS and the Boy Scouts. This dig was conducted on weekends throughout the hottest months of the year. The dig yielded trade beads, buttons, part of what appears to be a rosary, many bones, square nails, and shards of glass. It was observed that the bones appear to be from deer and other game animals cut with a precision tool. Dr. McPherson was an avid hunter with access to surgical saws. There was also a significant number of non-local rocks and petrified wood, probably due to Dr. McPherson’s other hobbies of rock collecting and prospecting.

SCHS has received notification that the State of Washington has allocated $33,000 from the Heritage Capital Projects Fund in 2015 towards phase two of the stabilization and preservation of the cabin. A $5,000 grant was received from the Washington State chapter of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America towards outdoor lighting for security and aesthetic effect. A grant by the City of Chewelah from State Lodging Tax revenue in the sum of $1,000 has been acquired for signage including the tribute wall memorial. The Heritage Network awarded two separate grants totaling $2,000 for site cleanup, roof repair and research costs. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are consulting and advising on the preservation of the building from their modern day Colville Agency near Nespelem, Washington.

Many events have conspired to allow the preservation of the Historic Colville Indian Agency in Chewelah. The cabin was profiled in the 1936 Historic Architectural Building Survey (HABS) Report. That same year, Dr. McPherson transferred nearly 500 documents written or received by John A. Simms to the Washington State University Manuscripts and Special Collections Library. Other Simms papers have been identified in the Chewelah Museum, personal collections and the SCHS collection. Research into the Simms papers and those of W.P. Winans, Simms’s predecessor, continues.

Interagency collaboration between SCHS, the Tribes, and the extended community has allowed this project to move forward. Local and state funding has been secured for phase two, which is expected to be completed in November of 2017. The Stevens County Historical Society looks forward to continued research as well as investigative and financial support for the preservation of the Historic Colville Indian Agency in Chewelah.
In the Pacific Northwest, evidence for widespread trade and exchange networks can be found within historic ethnographic records. Through the analysis of artifacts from archaeological sites, we can gather evidence for the existence of trade and exchange systems in the prehistoric past. Obsidian, a natural volcanic glass, was often a choice material for making stone tools in the past and is found in many archaeological sites throughout Washington. While obsidian from different origins may look similar (Figure 1), each has a unique chemical fingerprint that allows researchers to identify an obsidian artifact’s geologic source. Studies of obsidian sources let archaeologists focus on how past people used stone tool resources in the Pacific Northwest. Archaeologists are able to couple information about source and site locations with data on the quality of obsidian sources, what tools were made, and when sources were used. Through the preserved remains of archaeological sites, archaeologists can reconstruct prehistoric lifeways across the region.

Recently, two obsidian studies were conducted in central Washington State, encompassing 19 archaeological sites (Figure 2). The ages of these sites vary, dating between approximately 8,000 years ago and the historic period. The two studies, while different in aim, were guided by five basic expectations drawn from previous archaeological investigations. The results of these studies provide some insight into the movement of obsidian by past Pacific Northwest peoples.

1. Expectation: Obsidian sources located at greater distances from archaeological sites (i.e., nonlocal sources) will appear less frequently as artifacts at a site, while local sources will be more common. Result: Contrary to expectations, there was not a strong correlation between the presence of local and nonlocal obsidian sources at the studied sites (Figure 3).

2. Expectation: Obsidian quality is important for understanding how obsidian sources were utilized for stone tools. Simply put, it is easier to make a stone tool with high quality obsidian than it is to make one with low
quality obsidian, because high quality obsidian has fewer impurities. Result: Both studies demonstrated that local obsidian was generally of lower quality. Additionally, local sources are less widespread and nonlocal sources are dispersed more broadly in sites throughout the region.

3. Expectation: Nonlocal sources at a site will be most commonly found in the form of finished or nearly finished tools, or as small pieces of waste material resulting from the resharpening of these tools. In contrast, local sources may be found as artifacts representative of all stages of making stone tools (Figure 4). Result: These expectations were generally upheld for both studies, although there were some unexpectedly large pieces of nonlocal obsidian present.

4. Expectation: Some Pacific Northwest research has demonstrated a decrease in the use of nonlocal sources and an increased reliance on local obsidian over time, supposedly because of increased population and subsequent restrictions to resources. Result: Both studies indicated an increased use of nonlocal sources through time, suggesting an increase in trade and exchange of obsidian.

5. Expectation: Other factors such as geography, resource availability, and proximity to trade routes may have affected the number of obsidian sources observed at sites. Result: In comparison to more isolated sites, sites located closer to major trade centers tended to have artifacts from a wider variety of sources as well as an increased presence of nonlocal sources.

These findings suggest that, first, a factor other than distance influenced the way that people were collecting and moving obsidian across the region, a result which may be attributed to trade patterns or cultural and geographical boundaries. The presence of large pieces of nonlocal obsidian may represent long distance transportation of the stone in unfinished forms, and it appears people used a wider variety of obsidian sources in recent time periods.

Lastly, sites located closer to historic trade centers have artifacts from a higher number of obsidian sources than those located further away. Our studies demonstrate a complex pattern emerging in the pre-contact utilization of obsidian in this region. Continued research will help archaeologists understand the intricate way that past people chose and used obsidian sources in Washington State and other Pacific Northwest areas.

Note: Citations, sources, and additional details for this work are available from A. Parfitt (aparfitt13@hotmail.com).
Grant County Public Utility District No. 2

An award was presented to the Grant County Public Utility District No. 2 for their extraordinary efforts in protecting cultural resources during an unprecedented emergency. In February 2014, a fracture was discovered in the Wanapum Dam on the Columbia River near Vantage. The fracture in the dam required an emergency 26 foot drawdown of the Wanapum Lake reservoir, thereby exposing miles of pre-reservoir Columbia River shorelines. For cultural resources, this emergency response by the PUD drastically lowered water levels and revealed significant archaeological sites, artifacts, and human remains along hundreds of acres of newly exposed shorelines.

The public safety hazards and the threat of vandalism and looting to cultural resources required a robust, sustained, and coordinated archaeological, tribal, and law enforcement effort. Grant PUD quickly organized an effort to close and post signs along miles of shoreline. The exposed shorelines were patrolled by the Wanapum Tribe River Patrol supplemented by personnel from State Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Parks, County Sheriffs, State Patrol, and private security contractors. Throughout the duration of the drawdown, the PUD closely coordinated with the Colville Confederated Tribes, the Confederated Bands and Tribes of the Yakama Nation, and the Wanapum Tribe, the SHPO, law enforcement, and the media.

The drawdown also afforded a rare opportunity to identify and document archaeological sites that had not been observed since 1963. Recognizing this opportunity, the PUD tasked a team of archaeologists assisted by tribal members to record newly discovered sites as well as conduct a condition assessment of previously identified sites in the drawdown zone.

Working feverishly to avert disaster while under a regulatory and media microscope, PUD staff from the cultural resources team to upper management demonstrated remarkable commitment to protect the cultural resources placed in their trust.

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers of Detachment 16

The second award was also in Grant County, and it was given to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Law Enforcement Officers from Detachment 16 for their outstanding efforts to protect archaeological sites on Fish & Wildlife owned preserves in Grant County. Dedication to their service has resulted in the successful interception and prosecution of three looters of archaeological sites.

It is unlawful to dig into or remove artifacts from a site without a permit, but additionally, looters destroy crucial evidence that archaeologists rely on to understand the past. Perhaps most distressing from a human perspective, is that looting desecrates artifacts to which Native American people have deep cultural, heritage, and spiritual connections.

As early as 2012, WDFW officers from Detachment 16 (based in Ephrata) first noticed traces of illegal digging activity occurring at a significant archaeological site near Willow Lake in the Gloyd Seeps Wildlife Area. Willow Lake, a dry lake bed located in Grant County, is known as an area where artifacts are commonly found. With this knowledge, detachment officers started conducting day and night surveillance at the site in hopes of apprehending the looters.

Late one night in March of 2014, Officer Smith was patrolling in the Willow Lake vicinity when he observed possible evidence of activity.
occurring at one of the recorded archaeological sites. Smith reported the incident to Sergeant Mike Jewell, who was soon on his way as backup. When the looters unexpectedly returned to their car, Officer Smith stepped out and identified himself as a police officer, had them put down their equipment and kneel on the ground. Sergeant Jewell arrived shortly thereafter and the suspects were advised of their Constitutional Rights.

The officers recognized the two men from earlier contacts, including having looting equipment and trespassing on sensitive habitats. Both admitted they were digging for artifacts and knew that it was against the law. To serve as evidence, Officer Smith and Sergeant Jewell seized all of the equipment and the recovered artifacts. The two looters were arrested for disturbing the archaeological site.

Since the arrest, officers uncovered evidence that the defendants have been suspected of trafficking some of the Indian artifacts using the Internet, and have previous convictions for using or possessing methamphetamine or other controlled substances. The suspects were charged for violating the Archaeological Sites and Records Act, pleaded guilty, and paid fines.

Staff changes at the Washington Trust

Since our last issue, our staffing has undergone quite a few changes! We bid fond farewells to two staff members who will be greatly missed; we want to thank Sarah Hansen and Tamara Gill for all they contributed to the Trust. In happier news, Jennifer Mortensen has transitioned from part-time to full-time and we look forward to introducing two recently hired staff members in the January issue: Breanne Durham as Main Street Coordinator and Julianne Patterson as Development & Events Coordinator.

Sarah Hansen

Five years ago, the Washington State Main Street Program narrowly escaped being cut from the state budget and was only saved when the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) agreed to take on the program. After DAHP contracted with the Trust to manage the program, we hired Sarah Hansen as our Main Street Coordinator in the summer of 2010. Reviving the Main Street Program was no small task, and Sarah made it thrive. Under Sarah’s guidance, the number of Main Street Communities tripled from 11 to 32, and communities enjoyed a variety of training sessions, meetings, and consulting to help their local programs grow. In addition to all the work with the individual communities, Sarah has organized the largest annual event in which we are involved each year, RevitalizeWA, Washington's statewide Preservation and Main Street Conference. While we will miss Sarah’s incredible dedication to preservation and downtown revitalization, perhaps even more we will miss her cheerful personality and unconquerable sense of humor. We wish her well in her new adventures in Arkansas, but hope she will not be a stranger to Washington!

Tamara Gill

Tamara was only with the Washington Trust staff for some ten months, but certainly made wonderful contributions to our organization. Tamara joined us in November of 2014 as our part-time Membership & Events Coordinator and transitioned into the role seamlessly. With her social and fundraising savvy, Tamara helped us keep in touch with members, put on fantastic events, and continued to grow our fundraising base through the expansion of our corporate sponsorship program. A huge thank you to Tamara for attending Vintage Washington in September and volunteering her time all evening to help sell raffle tickets. Tamara has moved on to full-time employment elsewhere but is still in Seattle, so we hope to continue to see her at Trust events in the future.

Jennifer Mortensen

With the completion of her master’s degree in Architecture History & Theory (with a Certificate in Historic Preservation) from the University of Washington in June, Jennifer has transitioned to a full-time employee with the Washington Trust, taking on a new position as Preservation Services Coordinator. In this position, Jay (as she is known to us at the Trust) will be taking on new responsibilities in advocacy and public outreach. She looks forward to getting out of the office and meeting our membership and friends around the state!
Our last Where in the WA was a bit obscure, so it wasn’t a surprise that we didn’t receive any correct guesses as to its location. We would like to send a shout-out to Joan Hernandez of Tukwila who guessed that it was a restoration site along the Duwamish River, thinking that the building in the background was the BECU Building in Tukwila. We appreciate her participation.

While our photo lacked a strong visual clue, that doesn’t make it any less significant or interesting! The photo was of an archaeological excavation in Redmond that unearthed more than 4,000 stone flakes, scrapers, awls and spear points from at least 10,000 years ago. Located near Redmond Town Center Mall near the banks of Bear Creek, it is the oldest excavated archaeological site in the Puget Sound lowland with stone tools.

After finding a foot-thick layer of peat that was dated to be at least 10,000 years old, archaeologists dug deeper and began finding a large number of tools and fragments that had been protected by the peat layer above. Sites that old are difficult to come by in the Puget Sound area particularly because of the area’s heavy vegetation and how dramatically ancient glacial movement affected the landscape.

In addition to unusual spear points with concave bases, another interesting artifact discovered was a single fragment of salmon bone. This find signifies that the iconic Northwest fish has made its way up local streams for at least 10,000 years.

“Since finding the site was based on a salmon-restoration project,” said Bob Kopperl, a lead archaeologist on site, “it’s kind of like coming full circle.”

When the excavation team is finished analyzing the artifacts, they will be given to the Muckleshoot Tribe for curator. There are no immediate plans to display the artifacts publicly.

For more information about the dig, please contact Bob Kopperl at SWCA Environmental Consultants. A more detailed article about the dig was published on September 10, 2015 by the Seattle Times.

Where in the WA? October 2015

We welcome images of our readers taken in their favorite places around our beautiful state that we might be able to feature as a Where in the WA in the future. Email us a selfie with your favorite landmark, or post it on our Facebook page.

For your next challenge we decided to go with something a little less obscure than the archaeological dig, but it is still somewhat unusual! Email us at info@preservewa.org or call us at 206-624-9449 with the location pictured in the photo. Good luck!
Only through membership dues and contributions is the Washington Trust able to accomplish our mission to help make local historic preservation work and build an ethic that preserves Washington’s historic places through advocacy, education, collaboration, and stewardship. The Board of Directors and staff sincerely thank our following partners in preservation who have contributed to the Washington Trust during the past quarter.

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