



NOAA HERITAGE UPDATE

Items that can be found in September's NOAA's Heritage Update:

1. **NOAA Heritage Week 2006 – mark your calendar for February 6-11, 2006**
2. **Reporting NOAA's Heritage Assets Lecture on Oct 6!**
3. **Many of NOAA's Heritage Assets Have Been Inventoried!**
4. **NOAA's First Heritage Commemorative Survey Marker is set in Calais, Maine!**
5. **General Albert J. Meyer, first director of the U.S. Weather Bureau attends NWS Open House**
6. **Banner Summer for Submissions of Heritage Photographs and Writings**
7. **NOAA Coastal Communities Receive *Preserve America* Status**
8. **More on NOAA *Preserve America* Communities**
9. **\$5 Million Approved for *Preserve America* Grants in FY 2006!**

1. Remember the Date!!

NOAA Heritage Week 2006 will take place February 6-11, 2006. Exhibits will be on display in the NOAA Science Center in Silver Spring and various celebrations are being planned at other NOAA facilities. Extended exhibit hours and the addition of Saturday will allow the general public to experience NOAA's "Treasures". Mark your calendar; you don't want to miss this exciting event!

2. NOAA's Heritage Assets will be featured in National Oceanographic Data Center Lecture - Oct. 6th 11:00am SSMC3, Rm 4817

Lynette Joynes will give an informal description of personal property retained by NOAA because of its historical, cultural, educational or artistic value that has been an intrinsic part of the past history or culture of NOAA.. Please make every effort to attend her lecture on October 6th 11:00 am – 12:00 pm in SSMC3 Room 4817. Please see Lynette Joynes for additional information (Lynette.M.Joynes@noaa.gov).

3. Many of NOAA's Heritage Assets Have Been Inventoried!

In April 2005 NOAA's Logistics Division and Personal Property Staff announced the completion of a document titled "NOAA's Heritage Assets the Road Ahead." This booklet is a pictorial and descriptive resource of some of NOAA's Heritage Assets. A Heritage Asset is any personal property retained by NOAA because of its Historical, Cultural, Educational or Artistic Value as opposed to its current usefulness to carrying out the mission of the Agency. The booklet has been designed as a guide and a way to better understand the importance of NOAA's Heritage Assets. Additional information is available on the NOAA Personal Property Home Page at <http://www.pps.noaa.gov>.

4. First NOAA Heritage Survey Marker Commemorates Golden Spike of American/European Longitude Connection

NOAA's first Heritage Commemorative Survey Marker was placed at the site of the telegraphic longitude observatory station at Calais, Maine. This station was first observed by the United States Coast Survey in 1857 and then again in 1866 following the successful completion of the Trans-Atlantic Telegraph Cable. It marked the first accurate determination of longitude between the United States and Europe and was a major milestone in establishing a national survey network. As such it was the "golden spike" of international longitude determinations, tying Europe and the United States together.



Captain Albert Theberge, NOAA Corps (ret.), discussing dedication ceremony with Maine State Senator Kevin Raye together

Maine State Senator Kevin Raye was the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony and gave an impressive presentation on the early operations of the Coast Survey. Please see Skip Theberge for additional information (Albert.E.Theberge.Jr@noaa.gov).

5. General Albert J. Meyer, first director of the U.S. Weather Bureau attends NWS Open House

On Sunday, August 14, 2005, NOAA's National Weather Service office in Buffalo, NY, hosted a tremendously successful open house to thank the public for their support. Over 1,500 people attended the full-day affair. Of particular interest in this year's event was the "re-incarnation" of General Albert J. Myer, first director of the U.S. Weather Bureau, precursor to NOAA's National Weather Service. General Myer, played by former NOAA employee, Bob Gilbert, informed the audience about the humble beginnings of a national weather service for the Nation. He re-enacted the General's demeanor, clothing, attitude, and drive for accurate weather products



Former NOAA employee Bob Gilbert portrayed General Albert J. Myer, first director of the U.S. Weather Bureau, precursor to NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), at an August 14, 2005, open house held at NWS's Buffalo forecast office. Over 1,500 attended. Photo: Ronald J. Colleran/The Buffalo News, 2005

nationwide, allowing the public to go back in time and live the moments just as he did. The community's incredible response to the open house is an outstanding example of the importance of the local presence that a NOAA office has on the community. This is indeed one of the most successful local outreach efforts conducted by a NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office and will serve as a way to ensure that we respond to society's needs for weather and water information. For additional information please contact John Skoda in the NWS Communications Office (301 713-3447 x138).

6. Banner Summer for Submissions of Heritage Photographs and Writings

This summer has seen a great influx of heritage photographs from interested NOAA personnel and citizens helping to preserve our heritage for America. Notable among the submissions include:

- A collection of photographs that Rear Admiral Sam Debow rescued from being inadvertently destroyed from ship files at Atlantic Marine Center
- Images and reminiscences of the first geodetic field work in the interior of Alaska were received from the family of William H. King
- Approximately 200 photographs with more to come have been received from Mr. Floyd Risvold who, with his brother Oscar, worked with geodetic field parties throughout the United States starting in the 1920's
- A packet of photographs and writings was received from Mary Bush Dore that were collected from her father, Charles R. Bush, who served nearly a forty-year career with the Coast and Geodetic Survey from the early 1920's until retirement in 1963.



Floyd Risvold packing into the Big Sur back country in 1932.

Many of these images and accompanying information will ultimately find their way to the NOAA Photo Library and NOAA History website, helping to preserve and share our heritage with all the citizens of the United States. Please see Skip Theberge for additional information (Albert.E.Theberge.Jr@noaa.gov).

7. NOAA Coastal Communities Receive *Preserve America* Community Designation Status

On June 30, Daniel J. Basta, director of NOAAs National Marine Sanctuary Program and NOAAs lead for the *Preserve America* Initiative, attended the ceremony to witness two NOAA coastal communities, Hatteras Village, NC, and Alpena, MI, receive official designation as Preserve America Communities from Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, Representatives Brad Miller and Michael Turner, co-chairs of the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus, and John L. Nau III, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This designation recognizes the communities for their dedication to protecting and celebrating their cultural heritage. At the ceremony, 24 new *Preserve America* Communities were awarded designation under President Bush's Executive Order 13287. Both Alpena and Hatteras Village are important NOAA partners in protecting, preserving and promoting cultural and archeological treasures that are part of America's maritime heritage. For additional information, please see Cheryl Oliver (Cheryl.Oliver@noaa.gov).



8. More on NOAA Preserve America Communities

In July, Cheryl Oliver and David Hall headed to Massachusetts to meet with elected officials and planning offices in Gloucester and Scituate to explore opportunities for the communities to become designated *Preserve America* Communities. Hosted and coordinated by Craig MacDonald, Manger of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, meetings included the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center and Pat Kurkul, Regional Administration, NOAA Fisheries - Northeast Regional Office and leadership from the Scituate Chamber of Commerce and Scituate Historical Society. In September, City of Gloucester Mayor John Bell has submitted an application for *Preserve America* Community status and Town officials of Scituate are currently developing their application.



9. \$5 Million Approved for Preserve America Grants in FY 2006!

The U.S. House and Senate have approved up to \$5 million for *Preserve America* grants in the FY 2006 U.S. Department of the Interior appropriations bill. This action, which was also signed by the President, approves the matching grants program for the fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2005. The grants are designed to support a variety of activities related to heritage tourism and innovative approaches to the use of historic properties as educational and economic assets. They would go beyond the bricks and mortar grants available under Save America's Treasures. Further information on the grants program will be posted at <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/federalsupport.html> as it develops.



Start thinking about the news you'd like to appear in the October NOAA Heritage Update! Please submit any activities, events, neat NOAA Heritage news, etc. to Kathy Dalton (Kathy.Dalton@noaa.gov) by October 14, 2005!