



Heritage resource capabilities expand on the Wayne and Hoosier National Forests

Eighteen new archaeological paraprofessionals were trained on the Wayne and Hoosier in February to help streamline survey work on both forests.



Group photo of the 2007 Class of Wayne paraprofessionals

Banding together to address a common issue, the archaeologists from the Wayne and Hoosier National Forests conducted a joint Archaeological Paraprofessional Training session February 5-9 on the Wayne, training 18 employees to assist in heritage and archaeological surveys.

Both Forests completed revised Forest Plans in 2006, and both also saw bottlenecks in completing project preparation work in heritage resources because of the number of projects being implemented. Ann Cramer and Chris Euler on the Wayne, and Angie Krieger on the Hoosier,

teamed up to develop and finalize the 40-hour course to certify other resource specialists in completing the heritage survey work required by the NEPA process.

"When we looked at the number of projects that required heritage work for 2007, and noted some of the delays to projects in 2006, we realized that we needed to give our archaeologist some help," said Mary Reddan, Forest Supervisor for the Wayne. "The paraprofessional training seemed to be the best short-term solution."

On the Wayne, Cramer was inundated with projects for 2006. And in spite of having a talented STEP student working for most of last summer, she struggled to keep up with the high demand. Krieger on the Hoosier felt some of the same pressure as Cramer, and the two began to talk about ways to solve the problem.

"We started talking about (the course) a couple months ago," commented Cramer. "I got with Angie (Krieger) on the Hoosier and we hashed out the details throughout most of January before the course."

Also in January Chris Euler came to the Wayne as a SCEP placement through the Region 9 office, after completing his degree in New Mexico. He quickly began to work with Cramer and Krieger on the paraprofessional course.

"Even with me being here (on the Wayne) I don't think one archaeologist could handle the amount of work that is lined up for this year," said Euler. "So I was glad to see so many people sign up for the course."

A dozen staffers from the Wayne and six more from the Hoosier comprised the class. Their backgrounds include recreation, fire, soils, biology, and forestry, and now include training in heritage resource work. The training for the week included archaeological law, reporting and documentation, flint knapping, and survey and artifact discovery methods. All of the attendees still have one field project to complete on their own before they are fully certified, Cramer added.

"Because of the intense cold and snow we had in Ohio that week, we had to cancel the major field portion of the course," Cramer explained. That is the one last thing that they all need to complete before the training is complete."

Cramer and Krieger have plans to follow-up on the field work as quickly as possible with all 18 graduates so they can turn around and begin to help out with the projects that Cramer, Euler and Krieger have lined up for this coming year. Cramer noted, "Each of the participants showed a genuine interest in the history and prehistory of the region, and will be wonderful additions to the heritage team!"

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