VETERANS CURATION PROGRAM
NEWSLETTER

May 2025



St. Louis VCP staff and USACE representatives attend the St. Louis Veterans Day Parade. Courtesy of USACE St. Louis District

On the Ground: VCP News and Views

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Veterans Curation Program. In order to keep you up-to-date with program achievements, local events, alumni, and community partners, you'll receive a newsletter from us quarterly! We are incredibly thankful for the extensive support our community provides as we celebrate over 15 years of helping veterans and rehabilitating archaeological and archival collections held by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). We hope you'll join us to learn about the program in-depth and celebrate our technicians, alumni, staff, and their achievements.

Julie, Outreach Coordinator

VCP Staff Highlight: Miguel



Miguel served in the United States Air Force Reserve for 11 years as a Crew Chief for the C-5 Galaxy at Lackland AFB, separating from duty in 2018. Miguel also worked with the American Veteran Archaeology Recovery Program as a field tech at an excavation site in Sicily, excavating the remains of WWII pilots. Miguel's most recent fieldwork experience was working on a metal detection survey assignment on a unique WWI aerial gunnery target in Fort Worth, Texas. Miguel is enrolled at College of San Mateo working towards his BA degree in Anthropology and plans to transfer to UC San Diego this fall. His main goal is to learn the intricacies of human societies, past and present, to be able to tackle socio-cultural issues we face today. Miguel is an assistant lab manager in San Mateo.

Community Highlight: Veteran Surf Alliance



VCP alumni Jillian (left) gathers with three VSA members. Courtesy of USACE St. Louis District

Veteran Surf Alliance is a Santa Cruz, CA based nonprofit that creates fellowship and community among veterans through surfing, easing the transition between military service and civilian living. They accomplish this by teaching, coaching, and mentoring veterans to surf and be respected members of their communities, providing access to surfboards, vital equipment, routine surf meetups and annual events. The VSA wants veterans to find the same type of camaraderie they had while serving in the military with members of their community.

Meet up with the VSA in Santa Cruz the last Saturday of every month and in Pacifica every Tuesday, rain or shine. Find them at www.veteransurfalliance.com.

Curation Corner: Tombigbee Historic Townsites Project (THTP)

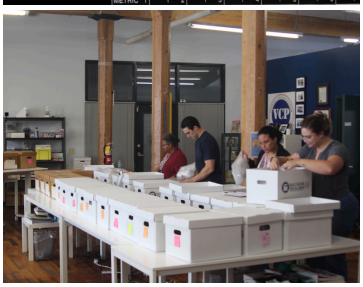
The Tombigbee Historic Townsites Project (THTP) was a massive archaeological excavation conducted in Mississippi between 1979 and 1983 by the University of Michigan. Contracted to perform mitigation prior to the construction of an outdoor recreation area, they uncovered the remnants of three extinct townsites from the mid 1800s and early 1900s.

The Cedar Oaks house was located in one of the townsites. While researching Cedar Oaks, we found that an area previously interpreted as just a trash pit contained lots of toys similar to ones found across the site. It could have also been a play place for children associated with the house!

THTP arrived in the Augusta lab in 2017. With over 200 boxes of artifacts and over 30 boxes of archival records it is one of the largest collections rehabilitated by the VCP. The Augusta lab is close to finally completing collection rehabilitation! Our most recent class of technicians helped us rebox one portion of THTP that contained over 100,000 individual artifacts!







Pictured: A toy gun, a technician catalogs artifacts, a doll face recovered from the site, and the Augusta team reboxing the collection. Courtesy of USACE St. Louis District and USACE Mobile District

Upcoming Events

Catch us out in the community at the events below!

May
14 - VA Veteran Assistance Expo (Augusta, GA)
16 - Bourbiz (Tysons, VA)

June
14 - Souls Feeding Souls/Cook For Vets Annual Fundraiser (Alexandria, VA)
22- Be the One Walk to End Veteran Suicide (Alexandria, VA)

Like and follow the VCP Socials for More Updates!

