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First Lady Designates Two New Preserve America Stewards

Washington, D.C.—A school of archaeology built on an ancient Paleo-Indian site in Texas and a historic garden designed by a landscaping firm founded by Frederick Law Olmsted have been designated as Preserve America Stewards by First Lady Michelle Obama.

The newest to join the honor roll are The Gault School of Archaeological Research and Dunn Gardens, bringing the total nationwide to 58.

“Preserve America Stewards are volunteer programs that have demonstrated success in saving historic places, in the best tradition of the national historic preservation movement,” said Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) which administers the federal program. “Preservation has always depended upon motivated, active volunteers who band together to ensure that significant historic places remain to enrich and instruct present and future generations.”

The Gault School of Archaeological Research (Texas)—The Florence, Texas-based school is dedicated to research and education regarding the earliest peopling of the Americas. Since its founding in 2006, more than 2,000 volunteers have participated in excavations and laboratory analysis at the Gault Site and other archaeological sites. The Gault Site is famous for its concentration of artifacts from 11 archaeological cultures dating back 15,000 years.

Dunn Gardens (Washington)—The Olmsted Brothers’ landscaping firm designed the gardens for Seattle businessman Arthur Dunn in 1915. Now open to the public, the site is interpreted by volunteer docents, who help visitors understand both the historic context of the gardens as well as the challenges posed by climate change. Other volunteers are instrumental in maintaining the gardens and researching their history.

For more information on the Preserve America Stewards program, please see www.preserveamerica.gov/stewards.html

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