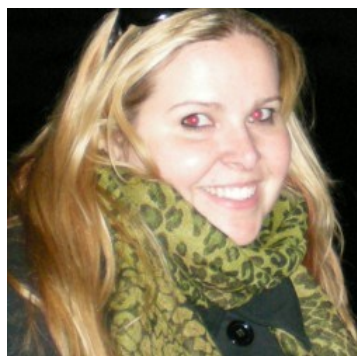


SOMETIMES I FINISH 6 SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE TASKS BEFORE LUNCH...

July 1, 2012 Molly Swords Commercial Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2012, Education, Historical Archaeology Alice in Wonderland, Amanda Haught, archivist, Bob Weaver, Bruce Schneider, cultural resource management, director, FYI, historical archaeologist, Idaho, Idaho Transportation Department, Jim Bard, Ken Burns, Mark Warner, Molly Swords, Moscow, National Park Service, Phinney Hall, principal investigator, Rosebud Battlefield Field School, Sandpoint, Sandpoint Lab, Society for Historical Archaeology, Sociology and Anthropology Department, SWCA, SWCA supervisor, technology equipment, University of Idaho, Washington State University, Willa Herman, Wisconsin



Hello Everybody! I am very excited to take part [again](#) in the Day of Archaeology! I enjoyed taking part last year and afterwards reading the posts from all over the world.

My name is Molly Swords and I am a historical archaeologist. I work for [SWCA Environmental Consultants](#) and teach the Applied Cultural Resource Management class at the [University of Idaho](#). Currently, I have number of “irons in the fire” and multi-tasking is a necessity. As others have probably mentioned there are a number of days that you are not outside in the field. This happens to be one of those days.

I start my day off with patronizing one of the many coffee stands around Moscow. I know what a busy day it is going to be... so, this is my little moment of Zen. A 24oz vanilla coffee is going to see me through the first part of the day.

Upon arriving at work, I answer a number of different emails about various projects. The first email greeting me is a reply to an email I sent yesterday, including information that I gathered at the [Washington State University Archives](#). I was able to venture over to WSU’s Special Collections and Archives to look over documents to help out some colleagues, Bob Weaver and Bruce Schneider, in another SWCA office. Part of the fascination of historical archaeology for me is getting to actually look through records to further explain the story.



Phinney Hall houses the Sociology and Anthropology Department at the University of Idaho. I work mostly in the offices housed in this building.

Another email I received was from a University of Idaho student that I taught last semester. She had a few questions about field school, as she would be attending her first one soon. I quickly replied to her... conveying a little of my jealousy that she would soon be out at the [Rosebud Battlefield Field School](#).



My desk at a relatively low level of chaos.

Since I am teaching a class in the fall for the University of Idaho, a small part of my day is doing some administrative things in preparation for that class, including ensuring all my paperwork is in order to get my new identity card (as mine expires on July 1st) and that I've made an appointment to get trained on the technology equipment for the room that I will teach in. I contemplate thinking of which books to assign... and then decide that today is the day not to go down that rabbit hole. Though preparation for the class can be tedious, I love engaging archaeology students in discussions of real-world archaeology.

I had a phone call with my SWCA PI (principal investigator), Jim Bard. We caught up on future opportunities and what is going on with the current project that we are working on [Sandpoint](#), the main cultural resource project that I am involved with – a multi-year historical archaeology project in its final stages. I am compiling technical reports and editing versions coming back from the editors. With a collection of close to 600,000 artifacts this is no small feat. In between all of these things going on, I am working on a proposal. My SWCA supervisor Mini Sharma Ogle and I email about setting up a time to chat on Monday about the logistics of writing a project proposal and budget to monitor a construction area for cultural resources.

It is around this time that I realize that I have not had lunch... the coffee has worked its magic until after 2pm. So, I grab a quick lunch with the Sandpoint Lab Director, Amanda Haught. It just so happens that this day is her last day as Lab Director. So, our lunch is a working lunch during which we discuss where things are and what needs to be finished. When we return from lunch, we sit down again and go over things... while I take many notes. I will be stepping in and overseeing the remainder of deaccessioning of collections and be available for the staff for any questions that may arise.



Temporary housing and storage of the Sandpoint collection.

It is around this time that Mark Warner makes his third appearance of the day in our office. Our cluster of offices are almost directly above his office so, it is a short commute for him to come visit. And as one of the PI's of the Sandpoint Project, we see him at least once a day. Amanda and I quickly chat with him about progress of the collection and report.



*Home Rule Irish pipe
recovered from
archaeological
excavations of Willa
Herman's turn-of-the-
century bordello in
Sandpoint.*

Coming home and decompressing on the porch, with a jack and coke, which led to drinks with my amazing neighbor, a National Park Service archivist, who is from Wisconsin and makes the best Old Fashions! She told me a popular joke among archivists, “Has Ken touched your collections?” (Ken Burns). Which made me laugh and laugh.

As we sit in her backyard and catch up on our professions, I can't help but think about all the amazing archaeologists that I've had the pleasure of working with on the Sandpoint Project and that I have the best job in the world!

Whew... hope you enjoyed this snapshot of my whirlwind day. FYI- my title is a take on a quote from *Alice in Wonderland*.