Cadaver Dogs to Uncover History at the History Foundation Cemetery Workshop

HELENA, Montana — She sits, she stays, and when needed, she finds human remains. Meet Kaylee, a specially trained forensic canine who helps locate unmarked gravesites. Kaylee’s skills will be one of the unique methods on display at the three-day Cemetery Preservation Technology Workshop in Helena, June 21-23, 2018.

The Institute of Canine Forensics, (ICF) based in California, employs a multitude of dogs like Kaylee to help uncover human remains as old as 1,500 years and down to nine feet deep. Recently, ICF joined in the hunt for the remains of Amelia Earhart on an uninhabited island in the South Pacific. The dogs proved to be a powerful search tool, discovering new evidence into her disappearance.

“Canines are especially adept at helping identify the location of previously unmarked grave sites,” Adela Morris, Executive Director of ICF said. “Their sense of smell is unparalleled by other technologies, making the dogs perfect for older grave sites and rugged terrain where clunky equipment is ineffective.”

In addition to meeting and learning about grave-detecting canines, some of the technology on display will include Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), Geographic Information Systems and mapping tools (GIS), Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI), aerial drones, and cemetery botany.

The workshop is open to the public and the registration fee includes classroom training on Thursday, technology demonstrations on Friday, and field trips on Saturday. Registration is $125 per person ($65 student rate) and closes June 1. Space is limited. Register online at www.mthistory.org/cemetery-workshop/.
The History Foundation started in 1985, it is an independent, non-profit corporation preserving the rich legacy of Montana’s past one story, one community, and one project at a time. With the help of donors, the History Foundation has put nearly $700,000 into history projects in Montana communities. For more information, including how to donate and apply for grants, visit www.mthistory.org

Left: GPS data collection. 2016

Center: Forensic Canine, Kaylee, alerting to grave site in Virginia City, Montana. 2016

Right: Amelia Earhart, Photograph by Getty images

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