



PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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AUGUST 2009

ALL ABOARD THE FAILBOAT: FLORIDA'S TROUBLE WITH TREASURE

At the July board meeting, FLORIDA HISTORY THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY was chosen as the theme for the 2009-2010 membership meeting lecture series. These programs will continue to be held at the Bowden Building, 120 Church Street, since attendance has outgrown the meeting room at FPAN. The list of speakers for this series is almost complete and should be published in the September newsletter. Have any suggestions? Call Jan.

Dr Della Scott-Ireton, Northwest Region Director of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, will kick off the new series and speak about Florida's unique relationship with treasure hunters. Her lecture will present Florida's history as a ship trap for treasure-laden Spanish ships and the resulting cottage industry of treasure hunting and commercial salvage that grew out of Spain's loss. Learn why the State of Florida allows the commercial exploitation of some of its historic shipwrecks, how the state manages the treasure salvors, and educational responses to this unethical yet legal issue.

The meeting will be held at 7 PM on August 11 at the Bowden Building, 120 Church Street. See you there and bring a friend.

NEWS FROM FPAN PANHANDLE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGIST

Dr. Della Scott-Ireton, FPAN Northwest Region Director based at the FPAN Center here in Pensacola, and Dr. Bill Lees, FPAN Director, contribute monthly to the newsletter (595-0059).

Mary Furlong, Outreach Coordinator, has moved to Maryland to work on her PhD. We wish you success! You will be missed! If you are interested in working in the FPAN lab during August or early September, you need to contact Della to set up an appointment.

On August 24, UWF interns Irina Franklin, Melissa Timo and Tara Giuliano will join FPAN. These graduate students will learn a lot about public archaeology as they work on projects throughout the year.

Della has been busy lately working up the preliminary program for the Society for Historical Archaeology meeting to be held at Amelia Island in January 2010. This international meeting is close enough for many Pensacola folks to attend. Many students and professors will be presenting papers, posters and workshops. Add January 5-8 to your calendar now as a reminder.

The two volunteer days at the Scott Site near Milton were a success as 7 volunteers helped with excavations there. Jay Bixler, grad student at UWF, has agreed to work on the Scott Site with the Milton High School students this year.

UNDERWATER AND TERRESTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY REPORTS

The underwater and terrestrial field schools are in their last week. The crews are busy finishing up the excavations, documenting and backfilling their units. All groups have plans to return to these sites during the 2010 field season.

The underwater students under the direction of Dr. John Bratten and Greg Cook, have worked on the Emanuel Point II and B Street Schooner wrecks this season. In addition to field work, groups of students have come into the conservation lab to learn what happens to the artifacts after recovery. There is much more to this than putting the artifact in a bag and forgetting about it. Work this season on the EP II began in the midship area and the hull was located in a deep unit there. In addition to the stone cannonballs, one cannonball of coral was also recovered. Following the structure of the ship, the crew is now working in the stern area. Visibility has improved at times to 2-3 feet which is better than zero visibility encountered during the early part of the season. Visit the site on line: http://www.uri.edu/arts/his/mua/project_journals/wf/wf_intro.shtml

One terrestrial group, under the direction of Dr. Worth working on private property near Molino, has located the remains of a small village and mission site

occupied for a short period during the 1700s. Interesting features include wall trenches, clay hearths and Spanish and Historic American Indian ceramics from the time period. The site was located by using historic maps and written accounts. In addition to the historic materials, a prehistoric site has also been located which seems to date from 500 BC to AD 500. See the blog for more info:

<http://pensacolacolonialfrontiers.blogspot.com/>

The second terrestrial group is looking for the residences of the workers and slaves from Arcadia Mill near Milton. Using the results from a shovel test grid over the site to locate artifact concentrations, they cleared a large area and opened a block and a number of units in the areas where concentrations of ceramics and nails dating to the 1800s were located. Look at the blog on line about the excavations at Arcadia. <http://arcadiamillvillage.blogspot.com/>

REPORT FROM THE FAS BOARD MEETING AUGUST 1

Kay Gautier represents PAS at the FAS board meetings which are held quarterly at a location which is usually in central or south Florida. She presents a report on PAS activities for the quarter and participates in the work of the board. It was announced at the meeting that FAS has received a \$12,500 grant from the Florida Department of State to fund Florida Archaeology Month 2010. In 2009 FAS had to depend on donations of many, especially UWF Archaeology Institute and FPAN, for poster and bookmark production since there was no grant available from the state for the year. The next annual meeting will be in Fort Myers in May 7-9, 2010 and Orlando in 2011.

Besides being the PAS treasurer, Kay is also the membership secretary of FAS. She would like to give up this position in the future and is looking for someone in Pensacola who would like to learn the ropes of the job and continue in her place. The job entails maintaining the statewide membership roster (documenting renewals and new members) as well as sending our renewal notices and acknowledgments for dues received. The post office box and updated database are set up. If this job appeals to you, contact Kay for more information.

FAS newsletters will be sent by email beginning July 2009 by request. Contact Dave Burns daveburns@prodigy.net to sign up for the email newsletter.

ARE YOU ABOUT TO EXPIRE???

The PAS membership year is May through April the following year. Please check your records. If you have not paid your dues since January 2009, you

are about to be deleted from the roster in September. Dues: student \$6, individual \$15, family \$20, life member \$200. Current year is on the May mailing label.

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 11

**ALL ABOARD THE FAILBOAT:
FLORIDA'S TROUBLE WITH TREASURE
DR. DELLA SCOTT-IRETON
FPAN NORTHWEST REGION DIRECTOR
BOWDEN BUILDING, 120 CHURCH STREET**

September 1, Tues. Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Florida Public Archaeology Network Center,
Old L & N Marine Terminal, 207 E. Main Street. MEMBERS WELCOME

September 8 – HIDDEN VESTIGES-HIDDEN LANDSCAPES : ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATIONS OF NORTH HILL HISTORIC SITES

Larry James, UWF grad student
Bowden Building, 120 Church Street

PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES –
NOTE NEW HOURS IN BOTH PLACES**

-The lab at **UWF** will be reopen for volunteers August 24. Available time during the fall semester will be reduced because of the Lab Class activities. Volunteer days will be Monday & Wednesday 9-4 through September. Processing of artifacts from the Barkley House continues and rough sorting artifacts from the summer field schools will help us get the collections ready for students to process during the lab class. If you are interested in attending the lab class lectures (Tues and Thurs 1 to 4 through September), contact Jan (474-2087). There may be a few spaces available after student registration is complete.

-Lab is open BY APPOINTMENT at the **FPAN** Center during Aug. – early Sept. Mary has moved to Maryland to work on her PhD. A new Outreach Coordinator has not been hired and interns do not arrive until August 24. Contact DELLA (595-0050) to schedule lab time during August and early September. Collections from the Milton High School project, the Scott Site, are being rough sorted.

*** During the summer, many volunteers took advantage of the air conditioned labs to help rough sort artifacts from a number of sites. A number of you braved the heat to help rough sort the artifacts being recovered from the Arcadia Mill site. During the month of July, the volunteer hour total was over 200 hours. Thank you for your hard work.

**FIRE AND WATER REVEAL
NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATING METHODS**

Scientists at the University of Manchester have developed a new way of dating archaeological objects using fire and water to unlock their “internal” clocks. They have discovered a new technique which they call “rehydroxylation dating” that can be used on fired clay ceramics like bricks, tile and pottery.

It has been determined that this technique can be used to determine the age of objects up to 2,000 years old with remarkable accuracy. It is believed that it may have the potential to be used to date objects around 10,000 years old.

The method relies on the fact that fired clay ceramic material will start to chemically react with atmospheric moisture as soon as it is removed from the kiln after firing. This continues over its lifetime causing it to increase in weight. The older the material, the greater the weight gain. In 2003 the Manchester and Edinburgh team discovered a new law that precisely defines how the rate of reaction between ceramic and water varies over time.



August 15 will be the finale of 450 days of celebration of Pensacola's founding in 1559. A birthday bash, free and open to the public, will be held at Pensacola Beach and downtown.

The day begins with a landing ceremony and Catholic Mass with Bishop Ricard on Pensacola Beach. That evening everyone is invited to join the fun at a street party on Palafox Place in Downtown Pensacola. Live entertainment will be provided by artists including Will Hedgecock, Gary Fields and the FAMU Marching 100.

Attendees can enjoy birthday cake, contribute personal items to a time capsule and sign the world's largest birthday card. The Pensacola Celebrity Chefs are preparing Spanish small plates for \$4.50. Children can buy tickets for a chance to dunk their favorite chef in a dunking booth.

The evening will end with a huge fireworks display over Downtown Pensacola.