



PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

EDITOR JAN LLOYD 453-1660 jall888@earthlink.net FEBRUARY 2006

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

EXCAVATIONS AT THE COMMANDING OFFICERS' COMPOUND 2005

Dr. Elizabeth Benchley, Director of the UWF Archaeology Institute and PAS member, will discuss last summer's excavations inside the Fort of Pensacola. Now located behind the T. T. Wentworth Museum, the area once was the residential compound of the Spanish Captain of the Cavalry and later the British Commanding Officer. Excavations have revealed a complex of buildings, wells, ovens, courtyards, and trash deposits related to the military precinct of colonial Pensacola. Plans for next summer's work and volunteer opportunities will also be discussed. Join us to see what came out of all that work! As usual, the program will be at 7 PM in Room 10, Trinity Presbyterian Church on Bayou Blvd.

TOM McCASKEY

We were all very sad to hear that PAS member and past president, Tom McCaskey, passed away January 16, 2006. His son, Kevin, related that Tom was diagnosed with cancer a week earlier and passed away peacefully at home that Monday morning. Tom was an active volunteer in field and labs when PAS and UWF were involved. He was also involved with the University of South Alabama's archaeology program and the Southwest Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society as a volunteer and officer. He always enjoyed sharing his knowledge with others and was excellent at recruiting new members to both archaeological societies. Tom did not want a memorial service or funeral and donated his body to science. He requested that, if anyone wishes, donations should be made to your favorite charity. Tom was a very caring and giving man and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

MUMMY: the inside story

You may have seen mummies before, but not like this!! As usual during Florida Archaeology Month in March, PAS offers activities that spotlight archaeology. This year on **March 25** we will visit the Exploreum in Mobile, host to a traveling exhibit from the British Museum – **Mummy: the inside story**. This fantastic exhibit features a 3-D movie that gives you a virtual “look” into the unopened mummy case and under the wrappings of Nesperennub, a 3000 year old Egyptian priest. More than 90 funerary objects from the British Museum’s outstanding collection will be on display in the adjoining gallery. We will arrive at 9:45 am to pick up tickets and get in line. At 10 we will see the IMAX film, **Mystery of the Nile**, followed by the exhibit at 11. From 12-2 we can have lunch and visit the Museum of Mobile which is right next door. At 2 pm, we will have the virtual 3-D experience and return home late afternoon. Sign up for the trip at the membership meeting and hear more about the details. Group ticket price is \$17.50 per person. **DEADLINE FOR CHECKS IS MARCH 1. Make them to PAS and mail them to the PO BOX number on the newsletter.**

STUDENT AWARDS APPLICATION DUE FEB. 28

To date, PAS has presented \$2200 in grants to students at UWF allowing them to attend conferences and participate in research all over the US and England. These awards are made possible by YOUR large and small donations! Thank YOU! The first Student Awards for 2006 will be chosen during the March 7 Board Meeting and will be presented at the membership meeting on March 14. Archaeology students applying for one of the \$400 awards should turn in an application letter to Jan Lloyd or Elizabeth Benchley by Feb. 28. The letter should include brief information about the project and the needs that could be met by the grant. The next awards will be made in Sept. 2006. This award in March will be called the Tom McCaskey Memorial Student Award.

NEW PAS BOARD MEMBER

Greg Cook, underwater archaeologist at the Archaeology Institute, has been appointed to fill the remaining term of Connie Franklin on the PAS Board. Greg will be an asset to the board because his knowledge of the underwater program and plans will continue to help PAS supply the volunteers needed for all types of activities around Pensacola. Welcome, Greg, and THANKS.

T SHIRTS AVAILABLE

T shirts will be available at the membership meeting. Some special shirts have the PAS logo and the UWF logo on the front and others have only the PAS logo. Both have the Pensacola colonial waterfront on the back. The price is only \$10 each. All future sales are profit that will benefit the Student Awards Fund. The inventory is dropping. Get one soon.

PAS MEMBERSHIP/DONATION INFORMATION

PAS membership dues are: Individual \$15, Family \$20, Student \$6 and Life \$200 Dues, contributions to Student Awards Fund or in memory or honor of individuals should be sent to the post office box listed on this newsletter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*****LAB WORK** – Building 13 Lab – Help is still needed to process artifacts from the Commanding Officers' Compound excavations last summer. Jobs rough sorting (for novices) and sorting/coding (for experienced workers) are available. No experience necessary!!! ***WE NEED YOU.*** Monday through Friday 9 to 4. For more information call Jan at 474-2087 or just show up.

FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH ACTIVITIES

Posters and book marks commemorating Florida Archaeology Month will be distributed in March to libraries, schools and other places where the public will learn of the importance of our cultural resources. If you can help with this or have ideas about places that will allow us to display these, let us know. These will be available at the March membership meeting.

If you have ideas about activities or trips that would interest the group, contact a board member and they will pass the information to others. It is not too early to make plans for the spring events that we all enjoy. We want your input! (President – John Crane, 934-4645 or Ken Alderman, 453-2371) See information on page 1 about the Mummy trip to Mobile March 25.

COMING EVENTS

- Feb. 7 Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Archaeology Institute, University of West Florida
- FEB. 14 EXCAVATIONS AT THE COMMANDING OFFICERS' COMPOUND 2005**
DR. ELIZABETH BENCHLEY
PAS member and UWF Archaeologist
7 PM Trinity Presbyterian Church, Room 10
- Feb. 28 Application Deadline for Student Awards Fund (see article page 2)
- March 1 Deadline for MUMMY trip checks to Kay Gautier (make to PAS, send to PO BOX)
- March 7 Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Archaeology Institute, University of West Florida
- March 14 ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE ISLAND OF CRETE**
BILL AND LORALEE HOLIMAN, PAS members
7 PM Trinity Presbyterian Church, Room 10
- March 25 Florida Archaeology Month Field Trip to Mobile to see
MUMMY: the inside story
See article on page 2 for all the details!

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FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The 58th Annual FAS Meeting will be held in Stuart, Florida on May 12-14, 2006. The meeting will be hosted by the Southeast Florida Archaeological Society. The primary host hotel will be Pirates Cove Resort and Marina in Stuart and reservations should be made as soon as possible. FAS and FAC events are scheduled for Friday, May 12, with board meetings in the afternoon and a reception that night at the Stuart Recreation Center. Paper presentations are scheduled all day on Saturday. The bookroom and vendors as well as paper presentations will be held at the Wolf High Technology Center, Indian River Community College. The Saturday night banquet is scheduled for the Pavilion at Indian Riverside Park, home of the Mt. Elizabeth Indian mound on the Indian River Lagoon. More information and more details will be available later.

FAS membership is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources and community education. FAS members receive the journal *The Florida Anthropologist* and the *FAS Newsletter*. Information on FAS can be found on the website: <http://www.fasweb.org> Dues are: Regular and Institutional - \$30, Family - \$35, Sustaining - \$40, Student - \$15 with copy of valid student ID, Patron - \$100, Life - \$500, Benefactor - \$2500 or more.

Please add \$5 for foreign addresses. Write to Beth Sarney, 5331 Lansdowne Way, Palmetto, FL 34221 or email excav8@tampabay.rr.com

A NOTE TO PAS MEMBERS FROM CONNIE FRANKLIN

In December, long time PAS member, Connie Franklin and her husband, Norm, moved to Georgia. She sent us this note recently:

“Dear PAS members,
Thanks so much for the beautiful and useful carry-all bag and cards. I miss all of you and hope to come back for a visit. I have so many wonderful memories of you all and Pensacola. We now live in Statham, a small town just 7 miles west of Athens, home of the University of Georgia. We have nice neighbors and great weather. How much more can you ask for? As we get unpacked and find things, I will keep in touch. Our address is 381 Birchfield Dr. Statham, GA 30666
Thanks again and goodbye for now, Connie and Norm Franklin”

We do miss Connie and Norm. Hope to see them visiting soon.

“JUST BECAUSE IT’S WET AND DIRTY DOESN’T MEAN IT’S LOST.”

(highlights of article in the *Washington Post* by Petula Dvorak, staff writer, Oct. 3, 2005) Bit By Bit, Federal Team Recoups Gulf’s History

National Park Service preservationists will begin sifting through condition reports on thousands of artifacts recovered after Hurricane Katrina. They saved flintlock muskets and Civil War pistols from rust. They rescued a Confederate colonel’s diary and heirloom plant samples from mold. They helped save precious family photographs from the ever-growing trash piles in New Orleans neighborhoods. The team of 10 curators – preservationists and historians who are trained in outdoor survival skills and run drills by soaking items in swimming pools and then salvaging them – split up between Mississippi and Louisiana, where they were escorted by the Park Service security force. At the Gulf Islands National Seashore in Mississippi, the historians saved ceramics, glass and a 5000 specimen historical plant exhibit that had been floating for days in rancid water, said team member West. In New Orleans, team members were relieved to find priceless items such as Louis Armstrong’s original music scores unharmed. But at the Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery, the site of the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, the entire collection was assaulted by invasive, relentless rust and mold. They worked with flashlights and everything was dark, smelly and gross. Everything was rusty – flintlock muskets, pistols, swords and scabbards. The military uniforms were reproductions so they were not salvaged. The weaponry was taken through checkpoints, packed and shipped to the Springfield Armory in Massachusetts where the Park Service’s only gun conservator works. At the cemetery, things looked much worse. The team had to bring in an archaeologist because the giant historic cypress and oak trees at the battlefield toppled in Katrina’s winds, shooting the sprawling root systems skyward. Embedded in the roots were pieces of historic coffins and human remains. The archaeologist extracted, identified and prepared the pieces for reburial. The team set up a triage room in Natchez, Mississippi, where they brought everything from farm implements to documents to historic photographs salvaged from the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park on Decatur Street in the French Quarter. “Nothing was 100 percent lost. We were very lucky,” West said.

The Park Service Web site has salvage tips: <http://www.ncptt.nps.gov>. Their best advice? Do not throw stuff out. Just because it’s wet and dirty doesn’t mean it’s lost.

(Many of the same experiences occurred here at Ft. Pickens and other museums. Restoration and preservation are still being carried out on many artifacts. –JL)