



PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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JULY 2006

**SEE INSERT ABOUT DR. BENSE LECTURE JULY 20
AND PUBLIC DAY AT
SEMINOLE, AL SHIPWRECK SITE FRIDAY, JULY 21**

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS JULY AND AUGUST

Although there are no membership meetings and programs during July and August, the program committee is already planning the programs for fall. The September program will be presented by Norma Harris, UWF Archaeology Institute, on work she has done on Sapelo Island off the Georgia coast. More information about this program will be in the newsletter next month.

DUES

If you have not renewed your membership for 2006-2007, now is the time. PAS dues are: Individual \$15, Family \$20, Student \$6, Life \$200. Dues and contributions to the Student Awards Fund should be sent to the PAS mail box. Look on your last newsletter address label for your expiration date.

T SHIRTS UPDATE

The 2006 t-shirts have been selling very well and a second order has been received. By request, some shirts in the new order include some repeat colors from last year - blue, green and sand. The new shirts have both the PAS and UWF logos on the front and the colonial waterfront on the back. Shirts are on sale (\$10) every day at the field school site behind the T.T. Wentworth Museum.

UPDATED 2006 FIELD SCHOOL INFORMATION

UWF Field School 2006 is in its FINAL MONTH. If you have not visited yet, now is the time. Dr. Elizabeth Benchley and Norma Harris are in charge of the excavations behind the T.T. Wentworth Museum for a second year. Archaeologists and students continue to search for more wells and foundations from the Spanish and British occupations in the forts. At the west end of the trench, what appears to be the filled-in moat that was at the west end of San Miguel, the first Spanish fort downtown, has been located. A number of animal burials, possibly pets, from the American period were excavated in the block area. Many construction trenches from First Spanish, British and Second Spanish buildings and fences are exposed now at the top of level 4. There is plenty to see. VOLUNTEERS are needed to rough sort artifacts under the big tent in the field lab behind the Museum. Volunteer turn out has been great this year- 4 to 8 per day! Hours for volunteers are 9AM to 3 PM (2 PM on Fridays). Call Jan for more info – 516-1932.

Dr. John Bratten and Greg Cook are in charge of the underwater field school this summer. Mapping of a side-wheel steamer near Seminole, Alabama, took place in late May and will continue beginning in mid-July. **SEE ARTICLE (INSERT) FOR PUBLIC DAY PLANS AT THIS SITE ON JULY 21.**

In addition to work at the Seminole shipwreck, underwater students have been busy in several other locations. Some work has been done with remote sensing around the area of the Immanuel Point shipwreck to locate other areas that may represent pieces of the same wreck or others from the 1559 Luna fleet. This work will continue in the fall and over the next couple of years with a grant from the state. Several visits to Deadman's Island and Old Navy Cove off Gulf Breeze enabled students to map the island and several known and newly discovered wrecks, ballast piles and parts of the marine railway. During visits to a site in East Bay, students cored and used metal detectors in the water to try to locate lithics and nails that were associated with prehistoric and historic occupations in the area. Much of the shoreline has washed away and the site that was once on land is now in the water and artifacts are scattered. Bricks from an old, fallen chimney in the area were examined and it appears that the hearth has been located. More activities will continue at these locations during the rest of the field school. Day to day activities often depend on the wind direction and other weather conditions.

STUDENT AWARDS FUND

The Student Awards Fund continues to grow. The balance at the end of June is \$4175.56!! Donations of any amount are welcome! The next awards of \$400 to each of two UWF students will be made during October with proposals due in September. Thanks again from the PAS Board and students.

NEWS FROM FPAN PANHANDLE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGIST

Della Scott-Ireton, Public Archaeologist based at the FPAN headquarters here in Pensacola, will contribute FPAN information monthly to the PAS newsletter.

FPAN is pleased to announce the hiring of Sarah Miller as Public Archaeologist for the Northeast Region (located at Flagler College in St. Augustine) and Richard Eastabrook, Public Archaeologist for the West Central Region (located at the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa). Interviews are in process for the Public Archaeologist position in the Southwest Region Center at UF's Randell Research Center in Pineland. Four additional regional centers will be established next year. Requests for proposals are scheduled for release in July.

If you need to contact Della, the FPAN office is temporarily located in the Old Christ Church School House, 212 Church Street, 595-0054.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION UPDATE

THIS is the LAST MONTH of excavations for the 2006 field school.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to rough sort artifacts from ongoing excavations behind the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Museum downtown. Volunteer turn out has been GREAT so far this year! Thank you for your time and energy. There have been 3 to 8 volunteers a day working on the bags and bags of artifacts recovered so far. Next week we will begin sorting and cleaning artifacts from a large trash pit dating from the Second Spanish to very early American period (late 1700s to early 1800s). Join us under the lab tent behind the museum every day Monday through Friday from 9 AM til 3 PM (2 PM on Fridays) to experience archaeology first hand. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. BRING A FRIEND. More info – Call Jan on the field phone – 516-1932.

***No lab work is available at UWF until September because of reduced staff working there. See you at UWF lab in building 13 again in the fall.

COMING EVENTS

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST, BUT BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AND MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

JULY 20 **RELIGION AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN PENSACOLA**

Lecture by **DR. JUDY BENSE**

6 PM, St. Ann's Catholic Church, Gulf Breeze

PUBLIC INVITED, SEE INSERT PAGE FOR MORE INFO

JULY 21 **PUBLIC DAY AT THE SEMINOLE SHIPWRECK**

SEE INSERT PAGE FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

August 1

Board Meeting, 3:30 PM, Bowden Building downtown

September 5

Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, UWF Archaeology Institute

SEPT. 12

ARCHAEOLOGY ON SAPELO ISLAND, GEORGIA

NORMA HARRIS

UWF Archaeology Institute

7 PM, TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYOU BLVD.

PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 13251

PENSACOLA, FL 32591

RELIGION AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN PENSACOLA

On Thursday, July 20, at 6 PM, Dr. Judy Bense will present a lecture about Religion and Archaeology in Pensacola at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Nickelsen Hall, in Gulf Breeze. The public is invited to this lecture during the week-long religious celebration. The thirty minute lecture will be preceded by a wine and cheese reception at the same location.

Archaeology and religion have a long history together. Archaeologists often encounter religious situations, both planned and by surprise, when we are studying communities, ceremonial sites, homes and people who lived long ago. This public talk will provide a short overview of the relationship between archaeology and religion in general and the fascination of Western culture with the treatment of and the special materials buried with the dead. The major portion of the lecture will focus on the relationship of archaeology and religion in the Pensacola area beginning with the Native American cultures that were here for 12,000 years prior to the 16th century European invasion. The focus will then shift to the European-American periods to discuss the religious contexts we have encountered archaeologically and what we have learned from them. The remains of the oldest Catholic Church yet discovered in Pensacola and the two associate cemeteries at the first permanent Spanish colonial settlement, Santa Maria de Galve (1698-1719) will be included as well as religious items recovered from this and other colonial and Early American sites in Pensacola.

PUBLIC DAY AT SEMINOLE SHIPWRECK SITE

The underwater archaeology field school will host a Public Day at the site of the Agerton Wreck, a side-wheel steamer shipwreck in Seminole, AL, on Friday, July 21. Parking at the site is very limited so we will meet off site and transport participants in the Archaeology vans to the site. The tour and activities at the site will last about an hour, but you may bring a lunch to eat on site or pick up lunch at the parking place store. ****Be sure to bring SUNSCREEN, A HAT, AND INSECT REPELLENT. *THE ARCHAEOLOGY VAN WILL PICK UP PARTICIPANTS AT UNCLE BUBBA'S COUNTRY STORE IN SEMINOLE AT 10 AM, 11 AM AND NOON.**

*****IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CARPOOLING FROM PENSACOLA TO UNCLE BUBBA'S COUNTRY STORE, CALL GENE FEICHT 479-3352.**

DIRECTIONS to the meeting/parking place: Drive west on Nine Mile Road from Pine Forest Road. Nine Mile Road becomes HWY 90West. Follow this highway

to Seminole, Alabama, and turn into UNCLE BUBBA'S COUNTRY STORE on the LEFT. This is the parking area where we will leave our cars.

Dr. Bratten submitted this report about the wreck. Between May 22 and June 2, 2006, archaeologists, undergraduate and graduate students and volunteers have recorded the steamboat wreck at Seminole, AL. Measuring tapes, video cameras, digital photography and subsurface magnetometer have been used to detect underwater metallic anomalies around the wreck. Visible features of the wreck have been recorded. These features include the outer hub of the starboard paddle wheel and hull/guard frames, the first 8.5 meters of the ship from stem to the forward coaming of the boiler hatch, the boiler (5.35m) itself and parts of the engine machinery that transmitted power from the boiler to the side-paddle wheels. The ship measured 33 meters in length and 8 meters wide at the paddle wheel hubs. The vessel is lying at approximately a 44 degree angle as the starboard paddlewheel came to rest on the river bank when the vessel sank.

The most important aspect of the wreck is its excellent state of preservation. The decking, hull planking, hatch comings and machinery are all still very sound. Divers have made several discoveries during the past few weeks. The vessel was powered using a walking beam engine, a rare example of nineteenth century steam propulsion that used a rocking lever or "walking beam" situated above the vessel's deck to transmit power from the engine cylinder to the shaft of the paddlewheel. A similar, but poorer preserved example was noted on the *Maple Leaf*, a steamboat wreck located in Jacksonville, FL, and built in 1850.

While investigating some of the intact machinery on the Seminole wreck, divers noted a small section of concreted brass. When cleaned, they found stamped on the plaque "John M. Carnie, New York 1870." This is probably the name and date of the manufacture of the vessel's engine, and likely represents the year that the vessel was built. Interviews with local informants suggest that the ship sank in 1906 or 1926 either due to storms or abandonment. If this is accurate, the vessel had a relatively long life of at least 36 years. One local informant told us that the ship was originally used in the New York City area where it was used to transport bodies of yellow fever victims to or from Staten Island during the late 1800s or early 1900s. This may be supported by the maker's plaque mentioned above. After that, the ship was reportedly purchased by the Southern Lumber Company and used to bring supplies to the original town of Seminole, located on the bank of the Blackwater River. The site is now occupied by a small number of residents who use the area primarily for fishing and recreational activities.

CONTACT NUMBERS – 324-4897 (field phone), 748-4817 (Dr. Bratten)