



PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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SEPTEMBER 2006

SEPTEMBER 12, ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY ON SAPELO ISLAND, GEORGIA

Sapelo Island off the Georgia coast has a rich history, including prehistoric and colonial settlements as well as plantations and other historic buildings dating from the 20th century. Indian occupation of Georgia's coast dates back at least 3400 years. When Europeans arrived here in the 1520s (YES, before Luna in Pensacola), Sapelo Island was a province of the Guale nation. Sapelo witnessed the territorial struggles between Spanish, French and British and was eventually bought from half Indian princess, Mary Musgrove, by the British crown. In 1800, Thomas Spalding began purchasing portions of the island and eventually owned most of it. During the 50 years of Spalding's occupation, Sapelo was a thriving plantation, but after the Civil War, the plantation grew up in weeds. In 1912, Howard Coffin, Hudson Motors executive bought the island. Farming, fishing, shrimping and oystering were revived during this time. Sapelo was sold in 1934 to tobacco heir, Richard Jay Reynolds, Jr., who created the Sapelo Island Research Foundation, Inc. in 1950. The University of Georgia set up lab facilities in buildings formerly used as dairy barns. This was the beginning of the present University of Georgia Marine Institute. In 1969 the State of Georgia purchased the northern three quarters of the island. This area is now a wildlife management area. In 1976 the south end of the island was bought by the state from Sapelo Island Research Foundation, Inc. and much of the land was incorporated into the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Norma Harris, UWF archaeologist, has done archaeological and anthropological research on Sapelo a number of times and will present the

September program. There have been and still are a number of communities of local people who have lived on Sapelo for years. Norma helped record the oral history of the Gullah-Geechee in the Hog Hammock community and her research was included in the book, *Sapelo Voices: Historical Anthropology and the Oral Traditions of the Gullah-Geechee Communities on Sapelo Island, Georgia*. This book is available for sale on the Sapelo Island website, www.sapeloislandgeorgia.org. All proceeds go to preserving the Sapelo culture in the Hog Hammock community. Join us Tuesday night for this interesting presentation.

STUDENT AWARDS FUND

The next Student Awards of \$400 to each of two UWF students will be decided October 3 with proposals due on September 29. The awards will be presented to the students at the Sept. 12 membership meeting. Proposals should be turned in to Jan Lloyd, bldg 13 lab or Dr. Elizabeth Benchley at the Archaeology Institute. Thanks again from the PAS Board and students to all of you for the continued support of this program. The Student Awards Fund continues to grow. The balance at the end of August is over \$4000!! Donations of any amount are welcome!

NEWS FROM FPAN PANHANDLE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGIST

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

This month the four new FPAN archaeologists from the Coordinating Center in Pensacola and charter regional centers in St. Augustine hosted by Flagler College, Tampa hosted by the University of South Florida and Pineland hosted by the Florida Museum of Natural History are meeting in Pensacola. Discussions will include web site development, choosing a logo and the FPAN relationship to interested federal, state and local agencies and groups.

Renovations are continuing in the old L & N Terminal which will be the permanent home of the FPAN Coordinating Center in Pensacola. No opening date has been announced yet, but watch for news in coming months.

If you need to contact Della or Bill or Cheryl Phelps (Office/Grants Manager), the FPAN office is temporarily located in the Old Christ Church School House, 212 Church Street, 595-0054.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION UPDATE

***The Archaeological Lab Methods class started **Tuesday, Aug 29 at UWF**. PAS members are invited to attend the lab methods class in the lab in building 13. The instruction part of this class will run through Sept. 28 and will be followed by processing of artifacts from this summer's excavations behind the TT Wentworth Museum downtown. There is room for 2 more people and it not too late to come. ***VOLUNTEERS are needed to rough sort materials for the students to process during lab class. Beginning Sept. 11, volunteer hours are: Monday through Friday 9 AM til Noon and Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1-4 PM. No Friday afternoon work this semester. Call Jan (lab 474-2087) for more specifics about the class or volunteering. Don't forget to stop at the Welcome Station at UWF for a parking pass if you don't already have one.

FAS BOARD MEETING REPORT

Kay Gautier was our representative at the FAS board meeting held at the Weedon Island Preserve in Pinellas County on August 12. The 2007 FAS meeting will be held near Sebring on May 10-13 hosted by the Kissimmee Valley organization. The Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society will host the 2008 meetings in the Tampa area and PAS will host the 2009 meeting here in Pensacola to commemorate the 450 anniversary of Pensacola's founding.

Kay presented the PAS quarterly report to the meeting. This report included the present membership count of 104, volunteer activities that occurred during the summer during field school excavations and diving activities and participation in the Downtown Pensacola Historical Museums annual open house. PAS logged a total of 1200 volunteer hours during the months of May through July.

TERRESTRIAL AND UNDERWATER UPDATES

Dr. John Bratten and Greg Cook announced the special category grant from the state will be used during the fall and spring to continue to investigate other targets found around the Emanuel Point shipwreck area.

Dr. Elizabeth Benchley announced that archaeological monitoring is occurring downtown during construction projects. UWF has been requested to do archaeology on several properties in the Historic District. The remote sensing project continues at St. Michael's Cemetery as well as field testing and soil analysis. A \$30,000 restoration project begins at the cemetery soon and continues through October to repair damages done to a number of markers recently. Contact Margo Stringfield for more information on these cemetery projects.

COMING EVENTS

- September 5 Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Archaeology Institute UWF
- SEPT. 12 **ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
ON SAPELO ISLAND, GEORGIA
NORMA HARRIS**
UWF Archaeology Institute
7 PM, TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYOU BLVD.
- October 3 Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Archaeology Institute UWF
- OCT. 10 **WHISKEY AND WINDOW PAYNES**
Steamboat shipwreck at Seminole, Alabama
Wayne Abrahamson, grad student at UWF

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