



To learn more about Tommy and his adventures in archaeology, check out his Facebook page!

f TOMMY THE TORTOISE, JUNIOR ARCHAEOLOGIST

FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER

April 2012

Experience Archaeology

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For All You Happy Campers, It's Almost Summer!

Rae Harper

It's that time of year again when parents start to panic about what they are going to do with their kids for the summer. If you would like for your children to learn about archaeology, history, and the environment—we have several suggestions of venues throughout the West Central Region that will be hosting summer camps.

We are going to be partnering with AWIARE and hosting the first Tommy the Tortoise, Junior Archaeology camp at Weedon Island Preserve. Participants will be learning about archaeology, Florida Prehistory, and stewardship as they work their way through the program to earn their Junior Archaeologist designation.

This program is split into 6 modules that can be taught in 90 minute increments—1) Archaeology & Culture, 2) Archaeological Site Formation, 3) Human Interaction with the Environment, 4) Florida's Prehistory, 5) Technology, and 6) Importance of Archaeological sites and their Preservation. These modules can be taught as time allows. After this summer, the program will be made available to other venues interested in developing Junior Archaeologists!

For more information on this year's summer camp or the Junior Archaeologist program in general, please contact Rae Harper (rharper@usf.edu).

Goings-On Underwater

Jeff Moates

A good part of FPAN's outreach occurs underwater or, at least, the part that requires interpretation through bubbles and hand signals. Likewise on the top side, FPAN and the West Central Regional Center (WCRC) are participating in exciting undertakings and are planning important work in regards to underwater archaeology outreach. Besides conducting our established training courses, the Heritage Awareness Diver Seminar (HADS) and Submerged Sites Education and Archaeological Stewardship (SSEAS), WCRC staff is assisting the Florida Aquarium and the newly formed citizen support group, the Friends of *Narcissus*. Staff is working with these groups to help establish the necessary pieces needed in the run up to the designation of the shipwreck remains of USS *Narcissus* to become Florida's newest *Museum in the Sea* or underwater archaeological preserve.

With the recent Florida Archaeology Month commemoration of the Civil War and its impact here in Florida, new opportunities for outreach opened up and gave us a chance to connect the significance of the shipwreck site of *Narcissus* to visitors and residents of the Tampa Bay area. Most of us relate the Civil War to key battlefields and land campaigns that reflect the struggle and importance of the conflict. However, three shipwrecks located in bay area waters and documented by the Florida Aquarium as part of the Tampa Bay Shipwreck Survey are also tied to wartime activity. Each of these shipwrecks offers a great opportunity to talk about and raise awareness of the important and strategic watery aspect of the Civil War.

The US Navy commissioned *Narcissus* to operate as part of the East Gulf Blockading Squadron and stationed her to help with the blockade of Mobile Bay. After the war had ended, the tugboat steamed along Florida's coast with a crew of 26 men and tragically shipwrecked along our shoreline. For more information on *Narcissus* check out the proposal to establish the wreck site as an Underwater Archaeological Preserve. The other two vessel remains of *Kate Dale* and *Scottish Chief* resulted from a Union disruption effort aimed to thwart an enterprising Tampa businessman's, James McKay, blockade-running operations. This clandestine effort ultimately prevailed in the area's most well known Civil War skirmish, the Battle of Ballast Point, which took place in October 1862. We are fortunate to have a sustained research effort to document submerged cultural resources in our local waters. That effort has been a big part of the Aquarium's scientific dive team for the last five years and is headed up by employees Mike Terrell and Casey Coy.

WCRC staff is also in the midst of organizing and planning an end of summer trip to Biscayne National Park. Efforts there are to provide assistance to the park's archaeologist and cultural resource manager in updating a site plan for one of the many shipwrecks located inside park boundaries. The exciting opportunity for us is culmination of a SSEAS training course that we provided for a group of scientific divers, the SCUBAnauts.

SCUBAnaut International has two chapters located in the bay area. Each is made up of experienced, safety-conscious, and eager scientific divers – they just happen to be middle and high school aged folks and their parents. This is shaping up to be an exciting and educational way to end the summer. Plus, it's encouraging to connect with the SCUBAnauts and to get them thinking about Florida's submerged archaeological sites as they steam ahead. We'll be there to help and to provide a sustainable partnership for assistance with more projects like this one.

Archaeology Backpack in the Works for the USF Botanical Garden

Becky O'Sullivan

Last year's Florida Archaeology Month, with the theme of "Native Plants, Native People", gave us the opportunity to partner with the USF Botanical Garden, one of our neighbors here on campus. Setting up our archaeology outreach information at their annual plant sales and organizing a talk by FPAN Southeast Director Dr. Michelle Williams at the garden were great opportunities for us to reach out to a new group of preservation minded people. It was also nice to have an excuse to hang out in the beautiful gardens. It seems kind of obvious now, but I had never really thought about how much we had in common in terms of the lessons and messages we were trying to get out to the public.

After Dr. Williams's talk, the staff at the botanical garden reached out to us about creating an archaeology themed backpack for kids to use as a way to teach them about Florida's past through the native plants they were seeing throughout the garden. The botanical garden already has a discovery pack program for kids, with plant and wildlife themed back packs that can be checked out by kids or families before they start exploring the garden, as well as a special children's area within the garden where kids can participate in different hands-on activities, but they felt that archaeology could also fit well with their established programming.

So for the past few months I have been working on putting together an archaeology-themed activity workbook and activities that would work for the backpack program. Just like last year's archaeology month, we decided on a theme of how Florida's native people used the plants around them, as well as some general information about what archaeology is and what archaeologists do and look for. Also exciting, for me at least, is that I got to work in **Tommy** (the premiere gopher tortoise/junior archaeologist for those of you not in the know) as a kind of guide through the activity booklet. In addition to the activities, I also put together a booklet of Florida native plants that can be found throughout the garden with information on the various ways they were used by Florida's native people throughout time.

The great thing about archaeology, and the thing that makes teaching about archaeology easy in a way, is that it can fit in with so many different topics. Once the archaeology backpack is finalized I hope that kids will be able to experience the plants around them in a new way, seeing them as not only a pretty flower or interesting tree but as a resource that people used for thousands of years to survive. Also, I hope that by talking about archaeology through a different lens we will be able to reach out to a totally different, but still very much preservation minded, demographic.

Next time you are in the USF area make sure to check out the botanical garden, and if you have kids bring them along so they can check out all the kid-friendly activities that the garden has to offer.

For more information about the USF Botanical Garden go to <http://gardens.usf.edu/>

Working at Major Adams Cemetery

Ryan Harke

A result of FPAN's CRPT workshop in Bradenton held last November, West Central Regional Center staff is collaborating with Dr. Steven Marshall and high school students of Manatee School of the Arts, Cathy Slusser Deputy Director of Historical Resources for the Manatee County Clerk of Circuit Courts, and other volunteers from the area to clean, document, and preserve the Major Adams Cemetery. In addition to a 'public archaeology day,' Becky O'Sullivan and I mapped grave and headstone locations with a total station. Under Cathy Slusser's and FPAN's direction, Dr. Marshall and the high school students have been researching the cemetery's residents, cleaning graves, and transcribing information for each individual headstone. The results of the mapping and documentation will be combined in a Geographic Information System (GIS) and geo-referenced over the actual location on Google Earth. The City of Bradenton will thus receive access to a physical copy of all data gathered by this project. In so doing, the cemetery's condition in 2012 will be recorded, and this resource can be used to address research and historical questions for years to come. The project will be explored in great detail at this year's Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) meetings in Tallahassee, where Jeff Moates and I will present a poster entitled, *Mapping Bradenton's Major Adams Cemetery; Assessing One Outcome of FPAN's CRPT Initiative.*

Summer Camps

Weedon Island Preserve

Exploring the Past: "Hands on Weedon"
June 25 – 29 and July 23 – 27, 2012

Tampa Bay History Center

Art Infusion - July 25-29
Viva Tampa! - July 9-13
American Girls - July 23-27
Pirates and Explorers - July 30-August 3

Children's Museum of the Highlands

Florida Adventures—June 11—15

South Florida Museum

From Farm to Plate: Florida's Agri/AquaCulture Experience
June 11-15

Safety Harbor Museum

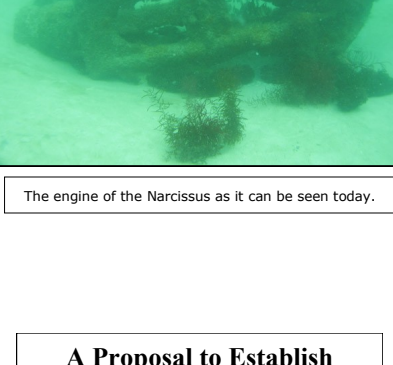
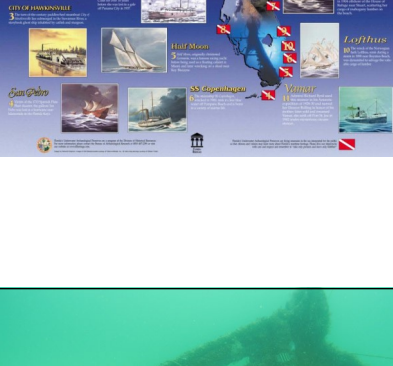
Indian Arts Camp—July 16—19

Crowley Natural & Cultural History

Session III: A Week in the Life of a Pioneer Family
July 23 – August 10



SUBMERGED SITES EDUCATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP



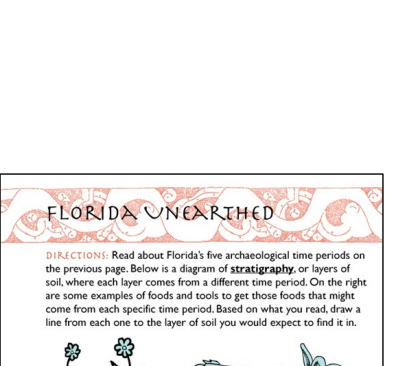
The engine of the Narcissus as it can be seen today.

A Proposal to Establish the Shipwreck USS *Narcissus* as a State Underwater Archaeological Preserve

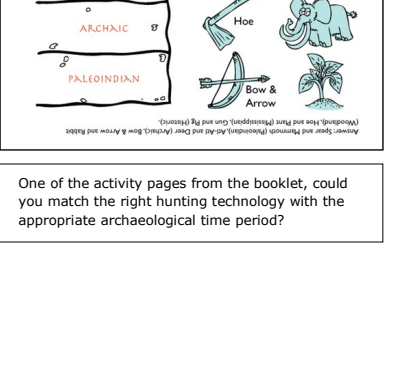


The remains of the Erl King are part of the Biscayne Maritime Heritage Trail.

Biscayne National Park's Maritime Heritage Trail



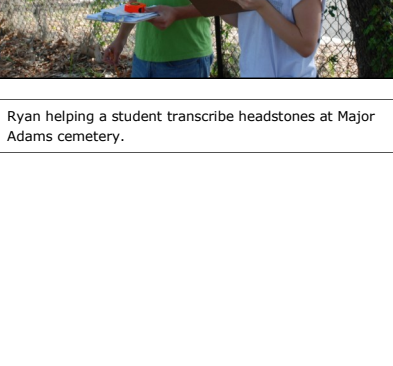
Hanging out at the USF Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale along with our archaeology themed scarecrow (complete with FPAN t-shirt).



One of the activity pages from the booklet, could you match the right hunting technology with the appropriate archaeological time period?



The USF Botanical Garden is a beautiful oasis among the hustle and bustle of campus life.



Ryan helping a student transcribe headstones at Major Adams cemetery.

For more information and a complete listing, please visit our web site's [Events Page](#)

FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK

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Upcoming Events

KVAHC Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2012 @ 7:00 pm

[View Details](#)

DeSoto Landing

Saturday, April 21, 2012 @ 10:00 am

[View Details](#)

VIIIth Great Florida Gulf Coast Small Craft Festival

Saturday, April 21, 2012 @ 10:00 am

[View Details](#)

VIIIth Great Florida Gulf Coast Small Craft Festival

Sunday, April 22, 2012 @ 10:00 am

[View Details](#)

Friends of Little Salt Spring "Kick Off" Charter Membership

Monday, April 23, 2012 @ 7:30 pm

[View Details](#)

Talk at Weedon Island Preserve "Climate Change Archaeology"

Tuesday, April 24, 2012 @ 7:00 pm

[View Details](#)

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April 2012

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