



EXPERIENCE ARCHAEOLOGY

FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK
West Central Regional Center

SUMMER EDITION

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Dive into Archaeology

By: Jeff Moates

This year we've teamed up with the Scuba Gym out of Clermont, in Marion County, to create a new program titled Dive into Marine Archaeology. The Scuba Gym is a full service diving outfit offering SCUBA certifications from Open Water to Instructor and specializing in work with families, children, and people who have disabilities and special needs. The Dive into Marine Archaeology program is geared up to provide a new experience into the world of Florida underwater archaeology.

Beginning in August, FPAN staff has scheduled

educational dives and excursions with the Scuba Gym and program participants at some of Florida's underwater archaeological preserves and archaeological sites. During each visit staff will lead participants in different aspects of conducting non-disturbance underwater archaeological investigations. Students will learn how to make a baseline, work in teams to observe shipwreck and site conditions, identify, measure and record findings. We're looking forward to visiting these unique places and especially to providing an opportunity for more folks to enjoy and learn about Florida



Students learn to map in the pool before visiting a real shipwreck.

shipwrecks and coastal sites. Upcoming dive locations include: *USS Narcissus* just outside Tampa Bay, *Regina* off Bradenton Beach, and *Copenhagen* off Pompano Beach. For more information on this program check out this website:

www.thescubagym.com

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New Archaeology Exhibit in the Works for the Ybor City Museum State Park

By: Becky O'Sullivan

In the summer of 2012, FPAN staff and student volunteers from USF conducted an archaeological survey at the Ybor City Museum State Park in order to look for what might remain beneath the surface of Ybor City that once was. Although there are history books written about this Latin, cigar-making community, along with oral histories, pictures, and memories, we wanted to see what the

archaeological evidence could add to the picture. Will the artifacts these people left behind shed light on a different aspect of Ybor City's history? What can these bits and pieces reveal about this historic neighborhood and its unique character?

We will explore these and other questions in a new exhibit titled "Ybor City Beneath the Surface" that will be installed at the Ybor City Museum State Park. Using artifacts found at the

park, along with historic maps and photos, the exhibit will highlight the changes that have occurred, and continue to occur, in Ybor City. We'll also explore how archaeology can inform us about the past even in a dynamic urban environment.

The grand opening for the exhibit will be Saturday, November 7th, with a preview party the night of October 26th. Keep your eyes peeled for more info on our Facebook page!



A fragment from a glass medicine bottle uncovered at the Ybor City Museums State Park. This brand of cough syrup came in two different bottles: one in English and another in Spanish. We found the Spanish version in our excavation.

Upcoming Events

Archaeology Works: Ceramics

SATURDAY 9/12, 10-Noon
Weedon Island Preserve
1800 Weedon Dr NE
St Petersburg

Archaeology isn't just about the prehistoric past, it can also shed light on more recent people who lived in Florida. Come learn about how archaeologists study Florida's historic residents through the ceramics they left behind. Through a short presentation and hands-on activities, participants will get to try their hands at analyses archaeologists use to "tell time" with plates.

Recommended for all ages.
To register go to:
<http://goo.gl/es4JJR>

Cemetery Resource Protection Training @ Old Manatee Burying Grounds

SATURDAY 9/12, 9-11 AM
Manatee Village Historical Park

1404 Manatee Ave East
Bradenton

Join the Florida Public Archaeology Network staff to learn about cemetery care and preservation where you live. Explore cemeteries as historical resources: conserving headstones and markers, managing cemetery landscapes, transcribing and more. Practice hands-on headstone cleaning. Watch a fascinating demonstration of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). GPR provides a three-dimensional picture of sedimentary layers. When combined with other archaeological and historical research techniques, GPR images can provide researchers with a better understanding of what may be concealed beneath the ground.

Archaeology Lecture - Ancient Mariners of Tampa Bay: The Weedon Canoe and the People Who Used It

THURSDAY 9/17, 7-8PM
Weedon Island Preserve
1800 Weedon Dr NE
St Petersburg

The Weedon Island canoe is as enigmatic as the people who made it. At least 40 feet long, this dugout canoe is far longer than any known prehistoric canoe in Florida (and perhaps in eastern North America) and is the only prehistoric canoe known in the state to have come from a saltwater environment.

What importance did it have for the people who made and used it? How was it used? In what kind of society would the Weedon canoe have been a technological necessity? From archaeology we know something about the people living on Weedon Island during this transitional period. From a detailed study of the canoe we know how it was made and what it was made of. Can the canoe tell us about the people, and can

what we know about the people tell us about the canoe? Brent Weisman, Ph.D, will explore the answer to those questions. For more information go to:
<http://goo.gl/XA98FW>

Preschool Story Time - Archaeology!

WEDNESDAY 10/7, 10-11 AM
South Manatee Library
6081 26th Street West
Bradenton

Explore Florida's prehistoric past through objects and activities at preschool story time. For more information go to: <http://goo.gl/r0qqG7>

ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS:

CANOEES



FEATURED EVENT!

ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS: CANOES

WHEN: Saturday, October 3rd
10:00 AM - Noon

WHERE: Weedon Island Preserve
1800 Weedon Dr NE
St Petersburg

Rivers were once the highways of prehistoric Florida, but how did Native Americans make the canoes they used to get around? Join archaeologists from the Florida Public Archaeology Network to explore the ancient dugout canoes of Florida, and learn more about the 1,100 year old canoe that was found at the Weedon Island Preserve.

Recommended for all ages.

Registration is requested but not required. For more information go to: <http://goo.gl/hnXMfH>

Volunteer Lab at Weedon Island Lets People of All Ages Participate in Archaeology

By: Kassie Kemp

Starting in September, our popular Weedon Island Volunteer Lab is back! For the next few lab dates we will be sorting through material excavated by Christina Perry Sampson, a PhD candidate in Anthropological Archaeology at the University of Michigan, who has been conducting field work at the Weedon Island site for her dissertation. Do you think temper is what you get when someone eats that last donut you really wanted? Don't know your Lightning Whelks from your Crown

Want to get some hands-on experience with Florida's prehistoric past? Join us at our next Volunteer Lab!



Conchs? Then come on out to the FPAN Volunteer Lab to learn all about these types of artifacts and more and be a part of the archaeological process!

Ever wonder what archaeologists do with all that stuff they dig up at archaeological sites once the fieldwork is finished? At the FPAN Volunteer Lab, you will learn all about how artifacts and other materials from archaeological sites are processed in the laboratory. You will get the chance to sort through, identify, and wash artifacts from real archaeological sites.



Participants of all ages learn how to identify and sort artifacts at our monthly Volunteer Lab at Weedon Island in St. Pete.

Why is lab work so important you might ask? If we as archaeologists do not know what artifacts we might have at a site, we won't know how to research them. We can learn different information from studying each kind of artifact but the ways we study shells are very different from the ways we study stone tools or pottery. That means it's essential to sort through all of the artifacts you have in the lab so that you know what you have and what kinds of

analyses you will need to do. Laboratory work gets us to the most important part of archaeology, understanding the people that made all of these things we are studying.

Our next lab date is September 11th from 10 am to 12 pm. This event is free and all ages are welcome to participate or observe, but children 12 and under should be accompanied by an adult. Registration is requested but not required. For more information or to sign up go to: <http://goo.gl/LjUdSg>

Join us at the Old Manatee Burying Grounds

Did you know that one of the oldest organized burying grounds on the Gulf Coast is located across the street from Manatee Village Historical Park in Bradenton? Interest in this sacred plot of land peaks each fall when the Manatee County Historical Commission presents the drama Spirit Voices from Old Manatee, an original artistic production highlighting early pioneers of the Village of Manatee and other persons of interest buried within the gates of the Old 1850 Manatee Burying Grounds.

Join Florida Public Archeology Network staff Saturday, September 12, from 9 am – 11 am and learn about cemetery care and preservation where you live. Gain tips and learn about scientific techniques on how to conserve headstones and markers, manage cemetery landscapes, and transcribe headstones. Those attending will practice hands-on headstone cleaning and see a fascinating demonstration of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). GPR provides a three-dimensional picture of

sedimentary layers. When combined with other archeological and historical research techniques, GPR images can provide researchers with a better understanding of what may be concealed beneath the ground.

This Program is FREE with preregistration by September 7th. Class size is limited. To register call (941) 741-4076; Location: Manatee Village Historical Park and the 1850 Manatee Burying Grounds are located between 14th Street East and 15th Street

East on Manatee Avenue East in Bradenton, FL 34208.



Kids "Dig In" to Archaeology at Weedon Island Junior Archaeologist Summer Camp

By: Kassie Kemp

As summer comes to an end so do two weeks of fun in the sun with our Junior Archaeologist summer campers. For the past four years FPAN staff have partnered with the Alliance for Weedon Island Research and Education (AWIARE) to offer two, week-long camps at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center in St. Pete. The beautiful Weedon Island Preserve is always the perfect setting for campers to learn about the past residents of



Archaeologist and AWIARE board member Dr. Robert Austin shows the kids how to excavate like a real archaeologist out at the Weedon Island Preserve in St. Pete. Part of the process is taking lots of measurements to see how deep any artifacts were recovered.

Florida, how they interacted with their environment, and the techniques archaeologists use to study them. Each day, campers learned about a different aspect of archaeology through hands-on activities, experiments, and hikes.

Campers started the week off with archaeology basics. They learned how to record an archaeological site using rulers and graph paper, how to draw a map, how to use a compass, and even how to measure distance just using their feet. We also had them try their hand at using a compass to map artifact and site locations like real archaeologists! The next few days focused on the stuff, or artifacts in archaeologist speak, that archaeologists find and use to learn about people in the past. The campers learned all about how Native Americans used stone, shells, and clay to make tools for everyday life. They even got to try out prehistoric hunting techniques and make their own pottery to take home with them! Hikes, visiting the

ABOVE: Campers learned about many different aspects of archaeology throughout the week by taking part in hands on activities, hikes, and demonstrations. In order to learn about what happens to artifacts after they are uncovered they even got to sort and identify real artifacts just like an archaeologist would do.

amazing museum exhibit at the Center, and (most campers' favorite part of camp) participating in a real archaeological dig out at Weedon Island rounded out the rest of the week.

The Junior Archaeologist summer camp is a fun, hands-on experience for the kids, but it is also important to us here at FPAN that the campers walk away with a better understanding of what archaeology is and why it's important. The kids really showed us what they learned through their creative and absolutely adorable drawings they did during camp. Hopefully these camps were a great end to an amazing summer for our newly initiated Junior Archaeologists!

Explore the Archaeology of the Night Sky this November

By: Brittany Yabczanka

Coming up in November, we have an exciting new Archaeology Works all about stars! This program will focus on ancient astronomy in Florida and how it compares to astronomy around the world. We will talk about why it is difficult to know what prehistoric Floridians observed, what other people around the world recorded, and what we can conclude Floridians did based on that information.

Native Floridians were no doubt using celestial objects for several purposes. Most likely navigation, storytelling, and time keeping. The specifics of these activities, however, are difficult to nail down because they did not keep any written records. When the Spanish and other European explorers arrived, they did not take note of the details of Native American life. Eventually they did think

to write such things down, which is why we have better records of Western life. However, since Floridians were some of the first to meet Europeans, they had already succumbed to illness and violence long before.

Since we don't have detailed records from Florida, we must gather information from around the world and see what (with the help of archaeological materials) would be plausible activity for Florida. Other parts of North America (especially known trading partners) are the most likely to have common ground, but that doesn't mean we should rule out ideas that show up in other parts of the world. Pyramid structures were independently created in Egypt, South America, and Asia, so it is not unreasonable that other thoughts could have arisen in different

parts of the world. This takes careful thought and examination of evidence, but some conclusions can be drawn.

The use of stars for purposes like navigation, storytelling, and timekeeping seem to be universal, so we can safely bet that native Floridians did this as well. To get more specific we need to look at artifacts, current native traditions, and much more. We can even use software to turn back the clock, so to speak, to see what the stars would have looked like at different points in Florida's past (see: star blog).

Join us Saturday November 14, 2015 at the Weedon Island Preserve in St. Pete to learn more. As always, there will be a presentation followed by family friendly activities. See you there, and never forget to look up!



Does the design on this pottery vessel found at Weedon Island in 1923 represent a scene from the night sky?

FPAN West Central
4202 E Fowler Ave, NEC 116
Tampa, FL 33620-6758

Phone: 813.396.2325
Fax: 813.396.2326

Director: Jeff Moates
jmoates@usf.edu
Public Archaeology Coordinator:
Becky O'Sullivan
rosulliv@usf.edu

The Florida Public Archaeology Network is dedicated to the protection of cultural resources, both on land and underwater, and to involving the public in the study of their past. Regional centers around Florida serve as clearinghouses for information, institutions for learning and training, and headquarters for public participation in archaeology.

For more information about archaeology and events in your area, check out our website or click on the images to the right to follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

www.flpublicarchaeology.org/wcrc
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