



**West Central Regional Center
Quarterly Report – July-September 2010**

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Executive Summary

In the first quarter of 2010-11 fiscal year, West Central Regional Center (WCRC) staff participated in 20 various outreach events/presentations and attended 17 meetings with regional partners in the preservation, education, and government sectors.

Quarter highlights include: the formation of new partnerships with the History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County and with the Ybor City State Park Museum; educational programming assistance to the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center, an established partner; and the opportunity to work with the City of St. Petersburg Urban Planning, Design and Historic Preservation Department in the updating of city ordinances.

In August, center staff delivered a presentation to a group of local history stewards, activists, and professionals that make up the **History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County**. The Coalition responded favorably wanting to learn more and asked the WCRC to become a member of their group. The group also asked FPAN representative, Zaida Darley, to take the lead on creating a county-based tourist/travel heritage map.

Also in August, center staff initiated a partnership through several meetings with park personnel at the **Ybor City State Park Museum**. The State Park is situated in the highly developed urban environment of Ybor City but creates a setting that is interpreted as a 1920s street-scape. Together with park rangers and volunteers, Center staff has initiated plans to conduct upcoming public archaeology days and related events at the State Park.

Beginning this quarter and carrying over to December, WCRC is providing funding for a USF graduate student intern (10hrs/wk) to support educational programming at the **Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center**. The effort is a big help for the depleted staff at the Weedon Island Center. It also underscores FPAN-led educational initiatives and helps to promote archaeology programming at Weedon Island.

Center staff also participated this quarter in the review of City of St. Petersburg preservation ordinances. As a member of an archaeology subcommittee, Center staff worked with dedicated citizens and staff from the city's **Urban Planning, Design and Historic Preservation Department** to identify and recommend changes to ordinances in order to strengthen the process of archaeological protection and preservation within the city.

Additionally, center staff provided opportunities for local St. Petersburg residents to take part in the archaeological discovery of a historic enclave of St. Petersburg. WCRC initiated the **Driftwood Community Archaeology Project** in the previous quarter and continued the exploratory survey in July, August, and September. This quarter, a total of 27 volunteers donated over 160 hours of service to the project. Even though a large portion of the volunteers have been local university students seeking field experience, Driftwood residents have enjoyed and remain attentive to the survey's findings. See below for further explanation of the Driftwood Project.

Type of Activity/Event	# of Events/Presentations/Activities	Attendees #
Public Presentations	6	162
Public Events	3	715
Professional Presentations (conferences, etc)	1 (Presentation to the Sarasota County History and Preservation Coalition)	20
Professional Events attended (conferences, etc)	1 (American Planners Assoc annual meetings – Florida Chapter)	-
Adult Training/Workshops	1 (HADS)	12
School/Youth Programs/Workshops	7	902
Radio/TV Presentations/Interviews	-	-
Volunteer Programs	1 – (15 field days: Driftwood Community Archaeology Project)	27/160hrs
Meetings attended – Government, Schools, Administration	17	-
Printed Articles – Magazine, Newspaper	St. Pete Times article featuring Driftwood Community Archaeology Project	-

Printed Media produced – Brochures, Booklets, Guides, Maps	FPAN page/Archaeo sites to visit along Lemon Bay Myakka Scenic Highway: Advertisement in Activity booklet.	-
Electronic Media produced– Blog, Podcasts, Mass Emails	Blog/Twitter/Facebook posts on intermittent basis; no newsletter this quarter – new setup administered for newsletter from FPAN hq	-
Major Publications – Book, Chapter, Journal Article	n/a	-
TOTAL	37	1838

Public Outreach

Info Booths/Edu Activities

- Snooty’s Birthday Celebration/South Florida Museum; *Manatee*
- Herman Trappman’s art opening/Tampa Bay History Center; *Hillsborough*
- Samford Cemetery cleanup; *Hillsborough*

Public Lectures/Presentations/Tours

- South Manatee County Branch Public Library; *Manatee*
- Exchange Club of St. Petersburg; *Pinellas*
- Bay Area Reef Runners; *Pinellas*
- Pinellas County Historical Society; *Pinellas*
- History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County; *Sarasota*

Workshops/Training

- Heritage Awareness Diver Seminar; *Hillsborough*

Youth Event/Presentation

- Dixie Hollands High School; *Pinellas*
- Terrace Community Middle School; *Hillsborough*
- Walden Lakes Elementary; *Hillsborough*
- McFarland Park IB Elementary; *Hillsborough*
- Pinellas County District Day; *Pinellas*
- University of South Florida, Public Archaeology grad class; *Hillsborough*
- Pinellas Preparatory Academy – *Pinellas*

Assisting/Advising Local Governments

Hillsborough County

- Updated Historical Resources Review Board of ongoing work to document Samford Cemetery and assist local management there.
- Attended City of Tampa Historic Preservation Board mtg

- Attended Barrio Latino Commission mtg – commission oversees and reviews permits for development and structure rehabilitation in Ybor City National Landmark District
- Facilitated survey work at state-owned, county-managed lands Conservation Lands Dept - USF Dept. of Anthropology

Pinellas County

- Assisted with City of St. Petersburg Parks Dept ongoing – Maximo Park: staff continued to consult with Parks staff on archaeological issues. Pinellas Point Mound Park: staff reviewed archaeological management plan and technical report and made comments for public meeting.
- Assisted City of St. Petersburg Historic Preservation staff with updating of ordinance pertaining to preservation and protection of archaeological sites. Comprised ½ of Archaeology Ordinance subcommittee that will make recommendations to Citizen Preservation Commission for changes/updates to ordinance.

Highlands County

- Historic Preservation Commission – detailed plans for documenting the site of a historic school house within Highlands Hammock State Park – introduced proposal for creation of heritage tourism travel map for Heartland region.

Sarasota County

- Attended History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County meeting – presentation to introduce FPAN and how we can assist – coalition voted unanimously to work with FPAN to create *Explore Sarasota's Past* tourism travel map.

Assisting DHR

Local contact for DHR, BAR, Review & Compliance

- Provide assistance to county and city for permitting requests
- Provide advice and liaison for Florida Master Site File submissions; delivered donated archaeological material to State Collections
- Distribute brochure and poster materials regarding Best Management Practices; State Underwater Archaeological Preserves; and whatever else we may have on hand.
- Conduct Heritage Awareness Diver Seminar

Other

- Director serves as a Board Member of Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society – attend monthly meetings and participate in Board activities and decisions.

- Staff serves as Board Members of Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education – attend quarterly meetings and participate in Board activities and decisions.
- Staff attended FPAN Outreach Coordinators retreat in Ft. Lauderdale.
- Staff attended annual FPAN/DHR meetings in Tallahassee.
- Staff installed *Rancho Regattas* museum exhibit in the SOC building on USF's Tampa campus.

FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITY: DRIFTWOOD COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

FPAN West Central Regional Center



Volunteers are needed for an archaeological survey of the historic Driftwood neighborhood, just south of St. Petersburg. This is an exciting opportunity for those who want to gain more field experience, or those who just want to get their hands dirty and learn more about the history of the Tampa Bay area!

Fieldwork Dates for October (9am-3pm):
 Thursday 10/7, Friday 10/8
 Friday 10/15
 Friday 10/22, Saturday 10/23
 Friday 10/29

For more information or to sign up please contact
 Jeff Moates at: jmoates@usf.edu

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**FLORIDA PUBLIC
ARCHAEOLOGY
NETWORK**

FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLGY NETWORK

Figure 1. Call for Volunteers flyer for Driftwood project has been helpful to spread the word. We receive contact from prospective volunteers and send them to a website where a sign-up sheet is available. Volunteers reserve a spot for the days listed on the flyer. That way, we know who and how many to expect.

Driftwood Community Archaeology Project

Located south of St. Petersburg in Pinellas County, Driftwood is an historic neighborhood situated among a canopy of hardwoods and pine. It's a place where local developers in the late 1930s utilized nature's cover to blend thirty or so custom-built houses into the backdrop of Big Bayou. The historic homes and meandering streets are a part of, instead of set apart from, the occupied environment. As a community anchor and focal point, Mullet Farm rests at the southern terminus of the Driftwood confines. It was here, in December 2009, that WCRC Staff and other archaeologists learned of the history of settlement along Big Bayou and of current residents' aspirations to understand it more completely.

Driftwood residents contacted Center staff through representatives of a local FAS chapter, Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS) to look at an unexplained hole in the ground at Mullet Farm that nearly swallowed a landscaper when it suddenly opened. Upon first inspection, archaeologists quickly realized that the cause of the hole developed slowly. Overtime, the top of a subterranean wood-lined structure rotted in place allowing the eighty centimeters of overlying sand to slowly fill in the structure. The hole finally gave way on an unsuspecting landscaper. At this point, the aptly named "Mystery Box" would serve as the catalyst to archaeological discovery in Driftwood and make way for a neighborhood-wide archaeological survey.

The area known historically as Big Bayou, the body of water adjacent to where Driftwood developed, boasts the possible locations of three separate occupations. They include: a three-sided "fortress" constructed of shell, a late 1850s homestead, and the founding of the first incorporated settlement on the Pinellas peninsula, known as Pinellas Village (ca. 1870s). The neighbor's interest, from an archaeological perspective, is to know if remains of these occupations exist. A subsequent neighborhood meeting took place to assess general community willingness and resulted in overwhelming support and permissions. We constructed a plan and informed the neighbors of some ground rules.

In June 2010, WCRC staff initiated an exploratory shovel test survey of the Driftwood neighborhood. The survey, boasting opportunities for volunteers and residents of Driftwood to participate, continues. To date, neighborly assistance is experienced through a dedicated artifact washing staff and our "next-lot information board," two essential components of conducting an archaeological survey on multiple privately-owned properties. The dedicated individuals are constantly checking up on our work as we move through the neighborhood and see to it that those neighbors next in line remain informed. Our goal is to complete the exploratory phase of the survey by December 2010. We are planning to have a community meeting at that time to inform residents of the preliminary findings and the next phase (lab work) of the project.

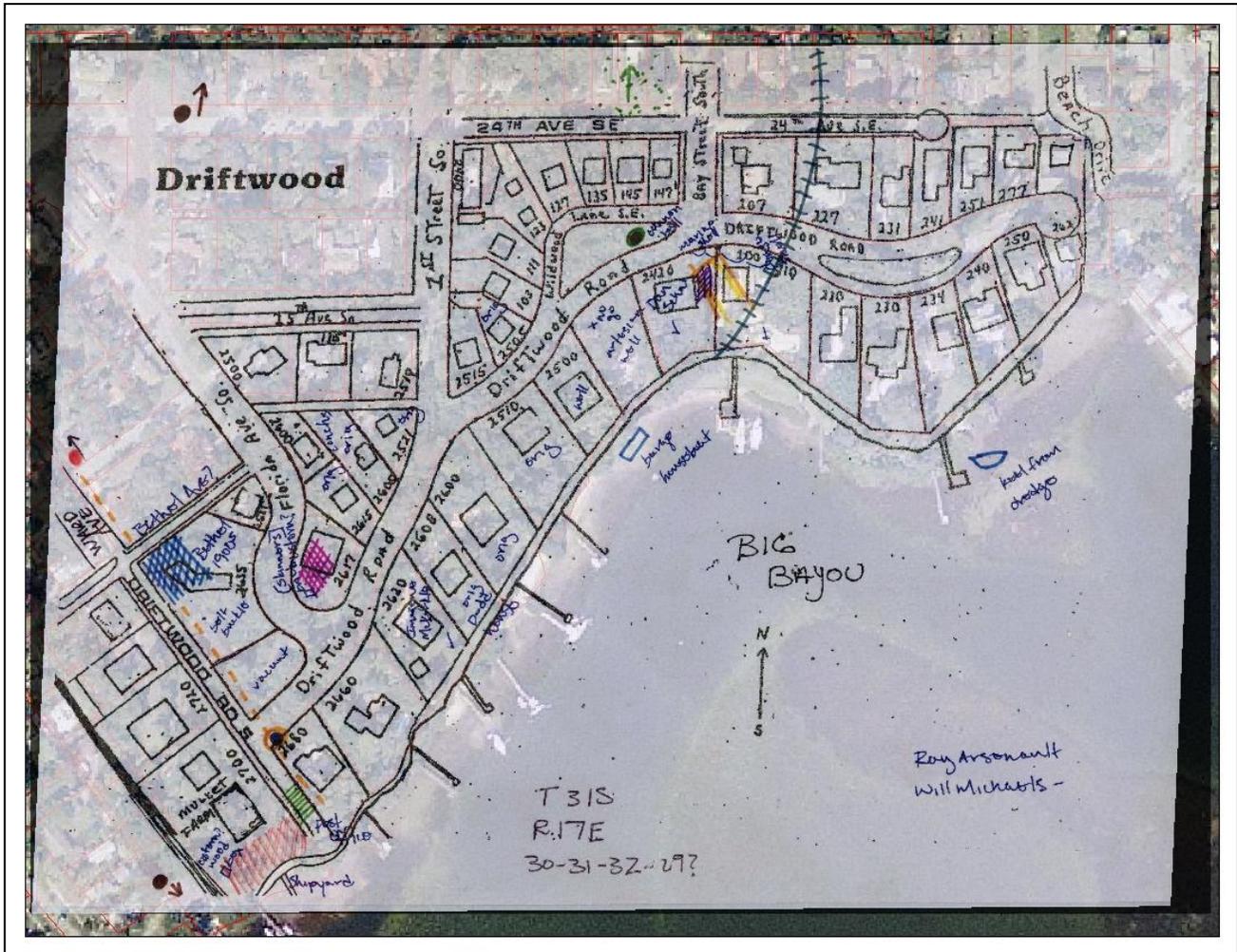


Figure 2. Modern aerial of the Driftwood neighborhood is superimposed by resident's hand drawn information map and a few scribbled notes. Areas are color coded to identify locations of historical relevance. Mullet Farm is on the bottom left.