Florida Archaeology Month 2014: Tracing Florida’s First People

Florida’s diverse history and prehistory stretches back over 14,000 years. The earliest inhabitants in Florida were the Paleoindian people. They hunted megafauna, as well as smaller game, and foraged for plants and other resources that dotted a colder and much drier land. These explorers set the stage for thousands of years of Native American culture and tradition in what is now the state of Florida.

This year’s Florida Archaeology Month celebrates the lasting contribution that Paleoindian people have had on Florida’s prehistory. Every March, statewide programs and events celebrating Florida Archaeology Month are designed to encourage Floridians and visitors to learn more about the archaeology and history of the state, and to preserve these important parts of Florida’s rich cultural heritage.

Plan to attend some of the many events throughout Florida during March 2014! A full listing of events can be found on the events webpages of the regional centers of the Florida Public Archaeology Network or on the Florida Archaeology Month website at http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/FAM/index.php.

Florida Archaeology Month is coordinated by the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS), the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), the Florida Archaeological Council, Inc., and the Florida Division of Historical Resources. Additional sponsors include state and local museums, historical commissions, libraries, and public and private school systems.

The 2014 Florida Archaeology Month poster is available through the FPAN Coordinating Center in Pensacola and the Pensacola Archaeological Society; posters can also be acquired at various events sponsored by these organizations in the coming months! Contact us with any questions about Florida Archaeology Month or related events.

Inside this issue:

- Dash through the Past 2
- Fort Pickens Tour de Fort 2
- “Beyond our Backyard” Lecture Series 3
- History and Archaeology Summer Camp 3
- “Shipwrecks of Pensacola” 4
- FPAN NW and Archaeology Conferences 4
- Florida Archaeology Month Events 5
Dash through the Past: A Scavenger Hunt Race!

Get to know more about local history, heritage, and archaeology by joining in FPAN Northwest's kick-off event for Florida Archaeology Month! This race through historic downtown Pensacola on **Saturday, March 1st** offers individuals or teams of two a chance to compete over a two-mile course for great prizes donated by local sponsors.

Registration starts at **9:00am** at the FPAN Coordinating Center (207 E. Main Street, Pensacola) and the hunt begins at **10:00am**! Each participant will receive a map and a list of challenges on the day of the race. There is no set route or order in which challenges must be completed. Prizes will be awarded based on players’ completion times. This event is free to the public, but a donation of $10.00 per person is suggested and will include a reusable aluminum water bottle.

Afterward, participants are encouraged to get dirty by rough sorting artifacts from excavations conducted by the University of West Florida in the FPAN Public Archaeology Lab at the Coordinating Center until 2:00pm!

**Tour de Fort Bicycling Tour of Fort Pickens**

Peddle, hike, and climb your way through Florida’s archaeology and ecology with FPAN and the Gulf Islands National Seashore on **Thursday, March 20th**! Tour de Fort is a bicycling tour of the archaeological sites along the Florida National Scenic Trail near Fort Pickens as part of the national campaign Let’s Move Outside! To learn more about this initiative visit [www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov).

Participants will rendezvous at the Fort Pickens auditorium at **10:00am** where a park ranger and FPAN archaeologists will meet the group for a tour and bike ride of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

The total bike ride is approximately four miles in length and lasts about two hours. The tour will visit archaeological sites along the trail ride where participants will learn about the archaeology, history, and ecology of the area. Bring plenty of water, healthy snacks, sunscreen, sunglasses, your bicycle, and helmet.

This program is free; however, participants are responsible for their own transportation and park entrance fee. For more information, contact Mike Thomin at 850.595.0050 ext. 107 or at mthomin@uwf.edu.

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**Events Calendar**

All of FPAN Northwest’s events are also listed online! Visit our Events Calendar to get the most up-to-date information!

**March**

March is Florida Archaeology Month: see page 5 for a full list of events!

**April**

4
Festival on the Green, 10:00am-5:00pm, University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola.

5
Festival on the Green, 10:00am-5:00pm, University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola.

8
Pensacola Archaeological Society Annual Dinner (ticket required, dinner included), “Prehistoric Underwater Archaeology in Florida, 7:00pm, University of West Florida, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola.

12
Explore Pensacola History Lecture: History and Culture of the Muscogee Creek, 10:00am, West Florida Public Library, 239 North Spring Street, Pensacola.

23-27
Society for American Archaeology Conference, Austin, Texas.

**May**

15-17
Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar, Registration information coming soon, Marathon, Florida.
“Beyond our Backyard: Archaeology around the World” Lecture Series

Each year, the Northwest Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network celebrates Florida Archaeology Month by hosting the “Beyond our Backyard: Archaeology around the World” lecture series. This lecture series provides attendees with a look beyond local archaeology toward some of the amazing archaeological projects undertaken across the world! Lectures are **every Thursday in March** at 7:00pm in the West Florida Public Library Main Branch, 239 North Spring Street, Pensacola.

This year’s presentations include:

**March 6:** “The Evolution of Underwater Archaeology in Madagascar and the Serapis Project,” by Norine Carroll, UWF

**March 13:** “In Search of the Founders of Berlin,” by Dr. Kristina Killgrove, UWF

**March 20:** “Bioarchaeology of the Undead: Deviant Burials in Post-Medieval Poland,” by Dr. Lesley Gregoricka, Univ. of South Alabama

**March 27:** “Africa Underwater: The Ghana Maritime Archaeology Project,” by Joe Grinnan, SEARCH, Inc.

This event is **free** and open to the public, so consider taking the time to broaden your archaeological horizons!

Get Ready for History and Archaeology Summer Camp!

The Florida Public Archaeology Network and West Florida Historic Trust are offering History and Archaeology Summer Camp again! Our camp is a one-week social studies enrichment camp that will immerse campers in activities in history and archaeology.

Campers will experience Pensacola’s unique heritage through hands-on learning, crafts and activities, museum visits, and tours. Specifically, campers will learn the fundamental concepts of terrestrial and underwater archaeology and how it teaches us about our shared past. The resources of Historic Pensacola Village will highlight history from the Colonial Period through the modern day. Throughout camp, students will apply reading, writing, science, math, and reasoning skills in fun, real-world applications.

Week-long camps will be offered **June 9th-13th** for upcoming 4th-6th graders and **July 7th-11th** for upcoming 7th-9th graders, Monday-Friday from 8:30am-12:30pm in downtown Pensacola. Registration opens February 21st!

For more information about the University of West Florida’s Explore Summer Camps visit, [https://secure.uwf.edu/ExploreCamps/](https://secure.uwf.edu/ExploreCamps/). You can also contact Outreach Coordinator Nicole Bucchino at 850.595.0050 ext. 103 or nbucchino@uwf.edu for any questions about the History and Archaeology Summer Camps.
“Shipwrecks of Pensacola” Presentation at Fort Pickens

The excellent port of Pensacola has long been the focus of European rivalries in the New World. Control of the harbor helped ensure dominance of the northern Gulf Coast. Shipwrecks litter the bay and surrounding waterways, many of which have been identified and archaeologically investigated.

Join FPAN’s Associate Director Dr. Della Scott-Ireton as she discusses the variety of Pensacola’s historical shipwrecks from Pensacola’s Spanish, British, early American, and Industrial Expansion Periods. This “Shipwrecks of Pensacola” presentation will be hosted by FPAN and the Gulf Islands National Seashore at the Fort Pickens Auditorium (Fort Pickens, 1400 Fort Pickens Road, Pensacola Beach) on March 22nd at 10:30am.

This event is free and open to the public, though attendees are responsible for National Park entrance fees.

University of West Florida maritime archaeology students work on recording and excavating the Santa Rosa Island Shipwreck, a Spanish frigate wrecked in Pensacola Bay in 1705.

Need someone to talk at your event?
FPAN can help facilitate speakers for meetings of your civic group, community organization, youth club, or heritage society, and for lecture series and special events. In addition to staff, we also can draw on the expertise of University of West Florida professors and graduate students as well as on local professional historians and archaeologists. Click here or call 850.595.0050 ext.103 for more information.

Do your students need a field trip?
FPAN offers wonderful field trips for students of all ages at its Coordinating Center in downtown Pensacola. Students will receive an introduction to archaeology, spend some time sorting real artifacts in our Public Archaeology Lab, and learn more about archaeological sites to visit around Florida in our Destination Archaeology Resource Center. Click here or call 850.595.0050 ext.103 for more information.

Want to Volunteer in Archaeology?
FPAN is seeking enthusiastic volunteers of all ages to help rough sort artifacts recovered from local archaeological sites. The volunteer program is perfect for students who need volunteer hours for scholarships or anyone who is interested! All ages are welcome (those under 16 must have adult supervision) and no experience is necessary! Click here or call 850.595.0050 ext. 103 for more information.

FPAN Northwest at Archaeology Conferences in 2014

Québec City, Canada was the location of this year’s Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) Conference.

This year, Florida Public Archaeology Network staff and graduate student assistants have been traveling to national and international archaeology conferences. Attending conferences is an important part of staying up-to-date on the practice of archaeology and allows us to network with other archaeologists across the world!

Early in January, FPAN representatives faced much colder temperatures than those in Florida by attending the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) Conference in Québec City, Canada. Staff and students presented papers, displayed posters, participated in workshops, organized panel sessions, and attended tours of the city’s historical and archaeological offerings.

In April and May of this year, staff and students from FPAN will also be attending the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) annual meeting and the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) annual meeting.

The FAS meeting will take place in Punta Gorda, Florida, and will focus on all aspects of Florida anthropology and archaeology. The location of the conference is significant because of the proximity of Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Springs, the two Paleoindian sites featured on this year’s Florida Archaeology Month posters. The Society for American Archaeology annual meeting will take place in Austin, Texas, and will focus on archaeology throughout the Americas.

Help wish our staff and students good luck as they present their research this year!
Volunteer Lab Opportunities
Open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00am-4:00pm. FPAN is seeking enthusiastic volunteers of all ages to help rough sort artifacts recovered from local archaeological sites! FPAN Coordinating Center, 207 East Main Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

Destination Archaeology Resource Center
Open Monday-Saturday from 10:00am-4:00pm. Come visit our permanent museum exhibit, “A Roadtrip Through Florida Archaeology,” FPAN Coordinating Center, 207 East Main Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

March 1: 9:00am-12:00pm, Dash Through the Past: Scavenger Hunt Race: Register for our annual run/walk scavenger hunt race through historic downtown Pensacola. Learn about local history and win great prizes! Afterward, stay and get hands-on in our archaeology lab! FPAN Coordinating Center, 207 East Main Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

March 6: 7:00pm, Beyond our Backyard: Archaeology around the World Lecture Series, “The Evolution of Archaeology in Madagascar and the Serapis Project,” West Florida Public Library Main Branch, 239 North Spring Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

March 11: 7:00pm, Pensacola Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting and Lecture, “UWF Field Schools 2013 Recap and 2014 Preview,” West Florida Public Library Main Branch, 239 North Spring Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

March 13: 7:00pm, Beyond our Backyard: Archaeology and History around the World Lecture Series, “In Search of the Founders of Berlin,” West Florida Public Library Main Branch, 239 North Spring Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

March 14: 6:00pm, Public Archaeology Lecture, “The Archaeology and Use of Caves in Florida,” Bay County Public Library, 898 West 11th Street, Panama City, FL 32401

March 15: 10:00am-11:30am, Introduction to Archaeology for Kids Presentation and Activity, Bay County Public Library, 898 West 11th Street, Panama City, FL 32401

March 20: 10:00am-12pm, Tour de Fort: Join us for a bicycling tour of the archaeological sites along the Florida National Scenic Trail near Fort Pickens, Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore, 1400 Fort Pickens Road, Pensacola Beach, FL 32561

March 20: 7:00pm, Beyond our Backyard: Archaeology Around the World Lecture Series, “Bioarchaeology of the Undead: Deviant Burials in Post-Medieval Poland,” West Florida Public Library Main Branch, 239 North Spring Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

March 22: 10:30am, Public Archaeology Lecture, “Shipwrecks of Pensacola,” Fort Pickens Auditorium, Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore, 1400 Fort Pickens Road, Pensacola Beach, FL 32561

March 22: 10:00am-2:00pm, Eglin Archaeology Day, Jackson Guard, 107 Hwy. 85 North, Niceville, FL 32578

March 24: 10:30am, Introduction to Underwater Archaeology for Kids Presentation, Fort Walton Beach Library, 185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

March 27: 7:00pm, Beyond our Backyard: Archaeology Around the World Lecture Series, “Africa Underwater: The Ghana Maritime Archaeology Project,” West Florida Public Library Main Branch, 239 North Spring Street, Pensacola, FL 32502


March 29: 10:00am-12:00pm, Discover Archaeology Day: Bring your artifacts to be identified, learn about archaeology in your area, pick up informative literature, and find out about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities! St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, 8899 Cape San Blas Road, Port St. Joe, FL 32456

March 29: 2:00pm-4:00pm, Discover Archaeology Day: Bring your artifacts to be identified, learn about archaeology in your area, pick up informative literature, and find out about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities! Constitution Convention Museum, 200 Allen Memorial Way, Port St. Joe, FL 32456