Florida Archaeology Month:

Viva Florida 500

2013 marks the 500 year anniversary of Juan Ponce de León’s arrival on Florida shores and first interactions with Florida’s indigenous people. From that point on, Florida has seen the arrival of many people of different nationalities and cultures. The archaeology of Florida’s diverse legacy begins at these distant points and continues into the present day. Archaeologists seek to learn about the more recent past as well, like the beginnings of tourism and the development of urban centers, to shed light on how our diverse heritage continues to impact and enrich our lives.

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 2013! 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 Viva Florida 500 website at http://www.vivaflorida.org/.

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 2013 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!
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 9th 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 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 player’s completion time. 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.

New Temporary Exhibit at FPAN

The Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) has opened a new museum exhibit titled *Mahogany and Iron: Wreck of a New World Frigate* inside the Destination Archaeology Resource Center! The Destination Archaeology Resource Center is located on the first floor of the Florida Public Archaeology Network Coordinating Center. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Admission is free!

This exhibit explores how, in the late 1990s, underwater archaeologists from the University of West Florida uncovered the remarkably well-preserved 17th century Spanish shipwreck of *Nuestra Señora del Rosario y Santiago Apostol*. *Rosario* was built in 1696 as a powerful warship for the Spanish navy and, as part of the Windward Fleet, she protected convoys of ships loaded with valuable goods traveling between Spain and its New World colonies. Throughout her career, the ship performed many duties, including hunting pirates and supplying far-flung settlements.

The ship was lost in 1705 while resupplying the colony at Pensacola, then known as Presidio Santa María de Galve. This exhibit also examines the excavation of this shipwreck and the clues archaeologists are uncovering about its construction currently under research. Several artifacts from the wreck are on display.

**Underwater archaeologists investigate Rosario.**

FPAN Archaeology Lab Volunteer of the Year 2012!

Congratulations to Garth Grove, Lab Volunteer of the Year for 2012. Garth has generously donated his time to the Public Archaeology Lab at the FPAN Coordinating Center for the past few years! We are exceptionally grateful for all of the hard work and dedication he has put into rough sorting artifacts for the University of West Florida.

If you are interested in volunteering in our Public Archaeology Lab contact Nicole Bucchino at nbucchino@uwf.edu or 850.595.0050 ext. 103. Our current open hours are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00am—4:00pm until April 24th; new summer lab hours will be announced soon.
Tribute to Chief Bobby Johns Bearheart

We are sad to learn of the recent passing of Perdido Bay Tribe of Southeastern Lower Muscogee Creek Indians Chief Bobby Johns Bearheart.

In 1990, Chief Bearheart founded the Perdido Bay Tribe and has since reached thousands of people to teach them about the rich Muscogee Creek Indian culture. Recently, as a part of his efforts in outreach and education, Chief Bearheart succeeded in developing and opening the Native Paths Cultural Heritage and Resource Center in Pensacola. Visit their website, http://www.perdidobaytribe.org/, to learn more about this unique heritage site.

Chief Bearheart has been a long-time partner and supporter of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. He will be sorely missed, but we are confident that his life’s work to preserve Muscogee Creek heritage will be a lasting legacy to his dedication, joyful nature, and kind heart.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTINUED

All events are also online: Event List


May 27th: 7:00pm, Public Lecture: Nuestra Señora del Rosario y Santiago Apostol: A Spanish New World Frigate,” Bay County Public Library, Panama City.

Tour de Fort Bicycling Tour of Ft. 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.

Participants will rendezvous at the auditorium at Fort Pickens 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 at lasts about two hours. The tour will visit archaeological sites along the trail ride where we 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 mthomin@uwf.edu.

History and Archaeology Summer Camp

The Florida Public Archaeology Network and West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. 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 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 10th-14th for upcoming 7th-9th Graders and July 15th-19th for upcoming 4th-6th Graders; Monday-Friday 8:30-12:30pm in downtown Pensacola. Registration opens soon! For more information please contact Nicole Bucchino at 850.595.0050 x103 or e-mail nbucchino@uwf.edu.
Florida Archaeology Month: Events At-A-Glance

All events are FREE and open to the public!

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 8: 12:00pm, Public Lecture, Geocaching Talk: “Mosquitoes, Muggles, and Museums,” Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Avenue, Valparaiso, FL 32580

March 9: 9:00am-12:00pm, Dash Through the Past: Scavenger Hunt Race, FPAN Coordinating Center, 207 East Main St., Pensacola, FL 32502

March 12: 7:00pm, Pensacola Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting and Lecture, “UWF Field Schools 2012 Recap and 2013 Preview,” Bowden Bld., 120 E Church St., Pensacola, FL 32502

March 14: 7:00pm, Beyond our Backyard: Archaeology around the World Lecture Series, “For God, Country and Some Loot: The Aragonese Aegean Raid of 1292,” Bowden Bldg., 120 E Church St., Pensacola, FL 32502

March 16: 10:00am-4:00pm, Archaeology in the Classroom: Educator Workshop, Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, 17869 NW Pioneer Settlement Road, Blountstown, FL, 32424

March 16: 10:00am-2:00pm, Eglin Archaeology Day, Jackson Guard, 107 Hwy. 85 North, Niceville, FL, 32578


March 20: 10:00am-12pm, Tour de Fort Bicycling Tour, Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore, 1400 Fort Pickens Rd., Pensacola Beach, FL 32561

March 22: 6:00pm, Public lecture, “Talking Smack: The Sailing Vessels of the Gulf Coast Fishing Industry,” Bay County Public Library, 898 West 11th Street, Panama City, FL, 32401

March 23: 10:00am-11:30am, Children’s Event: Introduction to Underwater Archaeology Presentation and Build-a-Boat Activity, Bay County Public Library, 898 West 11th Street, Panama City, FL, 32401

March 28: 7:00pm, Beyond our Backyard: Archaeology around the World Lecture Series, “Food and Foreigners in Rome and Beyond,” Bowden Bldg., 120 E Church St., Pensacola, FL 32502

March 29: 6:00pm, Public lecture, “A Forgotten Community: Archaeological Documentation of Old St Joe,” St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve, 3915 State Road 30-A, Port St. Joe, FL, 32456

March 30: 10:00am-12:00pm, 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 30: 2:00pm-4:00pm, 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

Keep up with Viva Florida 500 events across the state by checking their website regularly!