Blackwater Pyrates Win Heritage Award

The Blackwater Pyrates were awarded the Florida Stewards of Heritage Award by the Florida Archaeological Council on Friday, May 11. This prestigious award is presented by the Council to individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to aid archaeological preservation, further research, educate, or otherwise promote public awareness of Florida archaeology. The Pyrates were nominated by Dr. Della Scott-Ireton of the Florida Public Archaeology Network for their on-going efforts to preserve and promote the shipwrecks and other heritage resources along the Blackwater River near Milton, FL.

The Stewards of Heritage Award was established to recognize the role of the general public in preservation, education, and research of archaeological resources. The Florida Archaeological Council presents the awards biannually at the meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society. The 2012 Awards Ceremony was held in the recreated Apalachee Council House on the grounds of historic Mission San Luis in Tallahassee. Professional and avocational archaeologists from around the state were present to congratulate the Pyrates on this achievement. Accepting the award on behalf of the Pyrates were Captain Ken “Fins Up” Ponsell, Tom “Blackwater Bones” Scott, Dan “Hook’em Dano” Keiek, and Mark “Murky Bottom” Flores, all decked out in Pyrate regalia!

The Pyrates are dedicated to continuing their stewardship role for the historical and archaeological resources of the Blackwater River. Future projects include placement of State of Florida a historical marker presenting the heritage of Blackwater Landing, precursor of the town of Milton, and the many historic shipwrecks in the river. The Pyrates also are working with Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site in Milton to design a marker. In addition to heritage stewardship, the Pyrates host charity fund raisers, organize river clean ups, promote boating safety, and organize educational programs.
Archaeology Educator Workshops

FPAN offers Teacher In-Service workshops focusing on “Archaeology in the Classroom.” Teachers associated with traditional and non-traditional education are encouraged to participate. Archaeology is an extremely multidisciplinary social science, providing opportunities for teachers and educators to incorporate archaeological information, methods, and ideas into science, history, language arts, math, social studies, and art curricula.

This summer, FPAN is hosting a Teacher In-Service workshop on Thursday, July 26th from 8:30am to 3:30pm at the Bay County Public Library, 898 W. 11th St., Panama City. This workshop will provide educators with non-digging archaeology-based training, lesson plans, activities, and projects to expose students to the excitement of archaeology while teaching the basics. All information and curricula presented directly relate to FCAT requirements and Sunshine State Standards.

Registration is required and a recommended donation of $20 is appreciated. All donations go toward classroom activities, take-home materials, and refreshments. For more information please contact Irina at isorset@uwf.edu.

New Apalachicola Exhibit

This summer come visit a new, temporary exhibit at the Destination Archaeology Resource Center. “Rebel Guns: Defense of the Apalachicola.”

Exhibit synopsis:
In the humid summer months of 2010 a team of archaeologists from the University of West Florida and Florida Public Archaeology Network meticulously removed layers of earth in Florida’s Torreya State Park along the banks of the Apalachicola River. Here they uncovered a part of history from the American Civil War.

During the Civil War in Florida waterways were vital to the movement of troops and supplies. In the South, the Apalachicola River led straight to the manufacturing heart of the Confederacy in Columbus, Georgia. Controlling it meant victory or defeat. The Confederacy built obstacles in the river and gun emplacements, or batteries, at strategic points along the river edge to prevent the Union from passing upriver. This exhibit is the story of this site as it was revealed through archaeological investigations.

The information in this exhibit is based on historical and archaeological research by Brian Mabelitini. Mr. Mabelitini is a graduate of UWF’s Department of Anthropology with an MA in Historical Archaeology and wrote his master’s thesis about this archaeological site.
History & Archaeology Summer Camp

Blast summer boredom away, and join us for Pensacola’s History and Archaeology Camp! This summer, the University of West Florida is offering history and archaeology summer camps for students in upcoming 4th through 9th grades. Instructors for these camps include staff from the Florida Public Archaeology Network and West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.

Pensacola’s History and Archaeology Camp is a one-week social studies enrichment camp located in the Historic Pensacola Village. Campers will experience Pensacola’s unique heritage through hands-on learning, crafts and activities, museum visits and tours. Throughout camp, students will apply reading, writing, science, math, and reasoning skills in fun, real-world applications. All instruction and student learning outcomes are based upon Next Generation Sunshine State Standards. Space is still available for the July 16th-20th camp for upcoming 7th-9th graders.

For more information or to enroll, please call the UWF Continuing Education Student Support Center at (850) 473-7468 or visit www.uwf.edu/ExploreCamps

Unearthing Florida

Northwest Florida public radio audiences are familiar with Unearthing Pensacola which has aired on WUWF 88.1 FM since 1998. Representing the next generation of programs, Unearthing Florida is designed to enhance the public’s understanding of Florida’s archaeological heritage by highlighting activities of the eight regional research centers of the Florida Public Archaeology Network.

The new series of radio modules takes the Unearthing Pensacola concept to a statewide level, exploring geographical areas of interest to all Floridians. Dr. Judy Bense lent her voice and expertise as a terrestrial archaeologist to the Pensacola project, and will continue to serve as narrator of Unearthing Florida. WUWF News Director Sandra Averhart is Executive Producer of the new series. The new segments will air weekdays at 7:33 am on WUWF 88.1 FM. The segments will soon be made available to other public radio stations throughout Florida.

Unearthing Florida is a project of WUWF Public Media, FPAN, and its founder, Dr. Judy Bense. For further information contact Sandra Averhart at (850) 473-7447 or sandra@uwf.org.

To hear the episodes online visit unearthingflorida.org

~From WUWF’s Press Release
UWF's Summer Archaeology Field Schools

The University of West Florida's summer field season is in full swing! This year, UWF is hosting four field schools: two terrestrial archaeology, one combined maritime/terrestrial archaeology, and one forensic anthropology. These field schools give undergraduate and graduate anthropology majors hands-on experience, preparing them for future careers. The Division of Anthropology and Archaeology is dedicated to public archaeology and many of this year’s field schools have webpages so the public can follow summer excavations.

The Arcadia Mill Field School is in its fourth year at the antebellum water-powered industrial complex in Milton, FL. This summer, student and staff research focuses on the mill owners’ residence and nearby slave residences that are located in the uplands above the Arcadia Mill complex. The public is invited to visit the field school and to take a tour of the archaeological excavations. For more information contact Arcadia at (850) 626-3084. Follow Arcadia Mill’s blog: www.arcadiamillvillage.blogspot.com.

The Pensacola Colonial Frontiers Field School is entering its fourth year at Mission San Joseph de Escambé, an Apalachee mission village occupied between 1741 and 1761 along the Escambia River near Molino, FL. Students and crew are focusing their efforts this year on tracing out a long wall trench now interpreted as a stockade wall built in 1760 for a Spanish cavalry outpost stationed at the mission, and on exploring an area of overlapping mission structures with superimposed clay cap layers. Follow Colonial Frontiers’ blog: www.pensacolacolonialfrontiers.blogspot.com.

The Combined Terrestrial and Maritime Field School is divided into two 5-week sections. For the maritime component, students participate in underwater archaeological investigations in Pensacola Bay and surrounding waters. This summer’s activities include excavations on a vessel dating to the Tristán de Luna expedition of 1559; hull recording of a small sailing vessel in the Blackwater River; remote sensing survey using magnetometer, side-scan sonar, and sub-bottom sonar equipment; as well as site assessments and dives on known historic wrecks and maritime sites in the area. Follow the Maritime Combined Field School’s blog: www.fipublicarchaeology.org/blog/uwf.

The terrestrial portion of the Combined Field School is surveying a 30-acre tract on the UWF campus, as well as revisiting a multi-component prehistoric and historic site for further examinations of intact midden deposits. Each 5-week section is run much like a contracted archaeology project (i.e., Cultural Resource Management [CRM]), giving students experience in hands-on archaeological training, as well as what to expect from what, for many, will likely be their career path. Follow the Terrestrial Combined Field School’s Facebook: www.facebook.com/UWFCampusFieldSchool.

The Forensic Anthropology Field School provides senior undergraduate and graduate students with hands-on training in forensic field methods for the location, documentation, and recovery of human skeletal remains from both surface and buried contexts. After acquiring the necessary technical skills in compass use, line search, establishment of grids, Total Station operation, map construction, excavation, and field photography, students process a series of simulated forensic scenes, and produce technical reports documenting their methods and findings. The ultimate goal is to develop students’ project management skills, including ability to assess project needs, determine efficient solutions, delegate tasks, contribute constructively to team dynamic, and communicate effectively.

For more information on UWF’s field schools please visit www.uwf.edu/archaeology