Cemetary Resource Protection Training at Oaklawn Cemetery

By: Becky O’Sullivan

Friday November 9th, West Central staff, in partnership with Tampa Preservation Inc. and the City of Tampa, will be offering a Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) at Oaklawn Cemetery in Tampa. Developed by FPAN staff at the Northeast Regional Center in St. Augustine, CRPT focuses on historical cemetery care and protection. Participants explore cemeteries as historical resources, laws that protect them, proper methods of conserving headstone and markers, managing cemetery landscapes, and practice hands-on headstone cleaning with a gentle biological solution that does not harm the stone.

The classroom portion of the workshop will be held at the Metro 510 Life Center, 510 E. Harrison Street, Tampa, Florida 33602. In the afternoon session, participants will walk across the street to Oaklawn Cemetery to get hands-on experience in proper cemetery maintenance.

Registration is $15. It is first come, first serve, with a cap of 25. To register or for more information, contact Becky at rosulliv@usf.edu or (813) 396-2325.

New College Public Archaeology Lab Workshops

By: Jeff Moates

In September, West Central staff co-sponsored a prehistoric ceramics workshop with New College Public Archaeology Lab (NCPAL) and Time Sifters, Inc. in Sarasota. Gail Schnell led New College students and local folks through a discussion of ceramic types, terms, wares, and attributes. Gail’s vast and fine-tuned knowledge of ceramic wares made for a very informative session.

West Central staff worked to produce a handy sorting guide and artifact typology for the workshop. Big thanks to Dr. Nancy White at the USF Anthropology Department for her help and guidance with the guide!

In just a few weeks, FPAN and NCPAL are co-sponsoring another workshop. This one is set as an introduction for students and locals in bio and forensic anthropology. Maranda Almy (of local and Univ. of Florida fame) has agreed to direct the workshop. We are looking forward to another insightful session and look to continue to establish other outreach opportunities like these through our partnership with NCPAL. Thanks to Dr. Uzi Baram and crew at New College in Sarasota. This upcoming workshop will take place on Nov. 2nd. Contact us or Dr. Baram if you’re interested in attending.

Inside this issue:

- CRPT at Oaklawn Cemetery
- New College Public Archaeology Lab Workshops
- Celebrating the Hillsborough River through Archaeology
- Williams Park Site on the Alafia River Gets an Update
- Lab Time at the Ybor City Museum State Park
- SSEAS Training at Regina on October 28th
Celebrating the Hillsborough River through Archaeology

By: Becky O’Sullivan

Even though it has played such an important role in the development of the Tampa Bay area, most people don’t think very much about the Hillsborough River even as they see it out of their car window on the drive to work every morning. But really, the river is vital to our everyday lives not only because of the fresh water it provides but because of its importance to the character and history of Tampa. Starting October 20th and running through November 7th the Humanities Institute at the University of South Florida, along with many local partners, is putting on a series of events related to the river titled “Hillsborough River: Human Connections”. The program is partially funded through a major grant from the Florida Humanities Council.

On November 3rd from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm West Central staff will be putting on an event at MacDill Park on the Riverwalk in Downtown Tampa to celebrate the archaeology of the Hillsborough River from prehistoric times to the recent past. In addition to exhibits highlighting different ways the river has been used by people through time, free crafts and activities will be available to kids and adults. Kids will be able to make and race their own historic sailboat, make rope from natural materials, paint a palmetto mask or play the ancient Ball Game like the first inhabitants along the Hillsborough River used to do.

Also, at 12:30 pm there will be a guided tour of Downtown Tampa highlighting the archaeology of the area: everything from prehistoric mounds to historic Fort Brooke! For more information about this event follow the link on the left or contact me at rossulliv@usf.edu or (813) 396-2325.

Williams Park Site on the Alafia River Gets an Update

By: Ryan Harke

Recently, land managers from Hillsborough County asked West Central staff for help updating the management plan of a local park. Located at Williams Park are the remains of one of the archaeological sites in Hillsborough County visited by C.B. Moore in the early 1900s, Mill Point 3 (8Hi18). Unfortunately, most of Mill Point 3 was destroyed by road construction and the development of the nearby Cargill fertilizer plant. A small portion of the village complex remains in Williams Park, which has pavilions, restrooms, a boat ramp, and a parking lot. The remains represent a small part of a once larger complex that included a number of site components, including two house mounds (8Hi19, 8Hi20), a flat-topped temple mound (8Hi17), and a widespread shell ridge along the Alafia River (8Hi16).

Although Moore visited the site more than a century ago, it was more recently revisited and investigated in 1999. Current USF Anthropology chair Brent Weisman and then State Archaeologist Ryan Wheeler documented
Lab Time at the Ybor City Museum State Park

By: Becky O’Sullivan

As any archaeologist can tell you, once the fieldwork is done the real hard work begins. Excavation is important to doing archaeology, but without proper lab work and analysis afterwards we would never know what we actually found and all our hard work and note taking in the field would have gone to waste.

For the past month, USF graduate and undergraduate students, as well as members of the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society have been coming out to the Museum every Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 to help me wash, sort, and catalog the artifacts we uncovered at the State Park. Especially now with the recent change in the weather it has been great sitting out in the garden to do the lab work (of course the easy access to Cuban coffee doesn’t hurt either!) If you are in the area make sure to come on by and check us out, you could even help out if you like. No experience is necessary, only a good eye and an interest in the archaeology of Ybor City.

A mysterious artifact from our excavations at the Ybor City Museum State Park. Is it an ancient “Sorry” game piece? More likely a snap from a man’s collar bar (thanks Elaine Williams for the ID information!) IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP OUT WITH OUR LABWORK IN YBOR, CONTACT BECKY AT: ROSULLIV@USF.EDU

Williams Park (Cont. from pg. 2)

Continued from pg. 2

A few weeks ago, West Central staff and Hillsborough County employees visited the site once more, extending the site boundaries some 2000 m². My job was to update the archaeological site form in the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) to reflect these findings, and delineate the new site boundaries on a USGS quad map. The site is managed by Hillsborough County Conservation Lands, and FPAN recommended a plan to develop on-site interpretation. In so doing, this action will afford continued preservation and conservation of the site, while educating the public about archaeological resources. In the future, we hope to work with County land managers to designate the site as a local historic landmark.

A drawing of the site from when C.B. Moore visited it around the turn of the century.
SSEAS Training at Regina on October 28th

By: Jeff Moates

SSEAS or Submerged Sites Education and Archaeological Stewardship is an outreach program intended to train sport divers in the methods of non-disturbance archaeological recording and then give these trained divers a mission. In September, West Central staff started working with members of the Bay Area Reef Runners (BARR), a local dive group based out of Clearwater, FL, and orchestrated by dive instructor and super-FPAN volunteer Genny Donaldson.

This new batch of SSEAS participants have taken part in the classroom portion as well as confined water instruction. We are set to hold the open water instruction at the site of Regina, a Florida Underwater Archaeological Preserve located just offshore of Bradenton Beach (Manatee County) on October 28th. Genny and BARR divers have always shown great interest in FPAN programs and participated in many of our diver trainings. In fact, this SSEAS is the 4th time we’ve presented the workshop to Genny’s group. We are certainly grateful for her enthusiasm and ongoing support.

Once training is complete, SSEAS divers are able to perform all necessary tasks and are encouraged to begin investigating AWOIS sites. AWOIS or the Automated Wreck and Obstruction Information System is a database maintained by NOAA, Office of Coast Survey that contains information on over 10,000 submerged wrecks and obstructions in the coastal waters of the United States. These sites can give divers an outlet to apply what they learned in their SSEAS training. Trained divers are also asked to monitor nearby Florida Underwater Archaeological Preserves and other known submerged sites.

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, or to find out more about archaeology related events in your area check out our website or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

Check us out on the web:

www.flpublicarchaeology.org/wcrc/