

Experience Archaeology



FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER

Spring Edition

April 2013

New Digs, and FPAN “Digs Into Reading” this Summer

By: Jeff Moates

We're happy to announce our new digs! We recently finalized an official agreement with Pinellas County to be included as a partnering organization at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center located in St. Petersburg. The agreement supports a designated work/office space and provides us with access to the first class facilities and exhibits at the Education Center. This is a great opportunity and we are extremely happy to be included in the mix of organi-

zations. The groups, Pinellas County Extension Service, Florida Sea Grant, Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network, the dedicated group of Weedon volunteers and members of the Friends of Weedon Island, work together to provide public education and outreach on a variety of topics. We are busy creating fun, archaeology-based programs, hikes, and educational activities.

Interested in attending some of these programs? June 1st, from 10am to noon, we're setting up our second installment of the *Archaeology*

Works workshop series. This one will look into the prehistoric ceramic traditions of our area with crafts and educational activities for children and adults. July 13th, from 10am to noon, we're planning another *Archaeology Works* installment. This time we'll research the shell types common to Florida's Gulf Coast. What species did the prehistoric peoples use for making tools? What other bits of information can we learn about the Native Americans from the various marine shells thrown away

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FPAN West Central Sets Sail on Pinta

By: Becky O'Sullivan

April 3rd and 4th, Jeff and I were invited to set sail on the Niña and Pinta as they travelled from Punta Gorda to Palmetto. You might remember the original 1492 versions from your elementary school history lessons, but the versions we got to check out are of a much later vintage. Both were envisioned by the Columbus Foundation and built in Brazil by traditional boat-builders using techniques close to those used for the original vessels. The fact that they were made with traditional hand tools like axes, adzes, hand saws, and chisels made it cool to see these

boats not only because of the tremendous amount of work that went into them, but also because they were floating examples of things that archaeologists generally only see at the bottom of the ocean in the form of a shipwreck.

We hoped that we wouldn't become part of the underwater archaeological record during our voyage, but were excited for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to crew a 15th century style caravel. Both Niña and Pinta are a specific type of boat called a *Caravela Redonda*, a style common to both the Portuguese and Spanish during the Age of

Discovery. The *Caravela Redonda* is small and speedy, with a relatively

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Becky checks out the authentic safety devices aboard Pinta.

Upcoming Events:

- **27 APRIL:** TAMPA PRESERVATION INC., HISTORIC HOMES WORKSHOP
- **27 APRIL:** CRYSTAL RIVER BOAT BASH
- **20 MAY:** DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA @ NORTH TAMPA BRANCH LIBRARY
- **1 JUNE:** ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS- POTTERY @ WEEDON ISLAND
- **13 JULY:** ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS - SHELLS @ WEEDON ISLAND

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Experience Archaeology

Junior Archaeologist Summer Camp

By: Becky O'Sullivan

This summer, FPAN West Central is gearing up again for our Junior Archaeologist Summer Camp at Weedon Island. In partnership with the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE) and the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS), we will be offering two camps again this year in June and July.

Campers get to experience what it's like to be an archaeologist through hands on activities and outdoor adventures throughout the week. They learn about the importance of archaeology and will hopefully gain an understanding about early natural resources that were necessary for life in the Tampa Bay region. Highlights of the camps include guest experts, tour of an archaeological site, hands-on archaeology,

lab analysis, pottery making, a chance to try out some pre-historic hunting technology in the form of the atlatl, and the opportunity to help excavate a real archaeological site!



FOR MORE INFO ON
OUR JUNIOR
ARCHAEOLOGIST
SUMMER CAMP AT
WEEDON ISLAND, OR
TO REGISTER YOUR
CHILD, GO TO:

WWW.AWIARE.ORG

Recording Cemeteries in Hillsborough County

By: Ryan Harke

As yet another outcome of our involvement with Cemetery Resource and Protection Training (CRPT), FPAN West Central staff have begun a project to formally document historic cemeteries in Hillsborough County. The initiative grew out of background research performed by local historian, Chuck Matson, who compiled data on hundreds of cemeteries in the area, and published them online (www.hillsboroughcountycemeteries.com/). Lee Hutchinson of Archaeological Consultants Inc. (ACI) became aware of his efforts, and obtained physical copies of his dataset. These files were transferred to FPAN West Central staff, launching a project to visit these cemeteries and record their status for the Florida Master Site File (FMSF). The Division of Historical Resources offers a specif-

ic form for recording historic cemeteries. Similar to an archaeological site form, the cemetery form streamlines the process of uploading important information about the cemetery for safekeeping at the State. Eventually, we hope that all historic cemeteries in Hillsborough County will be properly recorded and recognized at the FMSF so that their information can be accessed by both the public and researchers.



'Woodman of the World' headstone at Central Cemetery, Lithia, FL

People and the Environment Hike at Weedon Island

By: Kassie Kemp

The newest FPAN partnership with the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center allows FPAN West Central staff to not only offer exciting workshops and summer camps for the kiddies but also gives us the rare opportunity to develop guided hiking tours along the Preserve's many trails. These free hikes are meant to help visitors see that Weedon Island is not just a beautiful place to go and enjoy the outdoors,

but also that it is an important archaeological resource base for the Tampa Bay area. So far we have developed a hike titled *People and the Environment*; a two-hour trek which points out the different environmental zones that are visible from the Preserve's hiking trails as well as how archaeologists look at the landscape. We make stops along the trail and point out the different ecosystems and give details about what raw materials and food sources each would have provided for native peoples. At the beginning of

the hike we ask participants to try to look at the land as an archaeologist would; if you came to Weedon Island for the first time as an archaeologist what would you look for to give you clues about where people lived? Based on the plants and ecological zones around you, where would you begin to look? When you start to see the environment from this perspective you begin to understand the principal factors that native peoples had to consider when choosing a camp or village site. The hike also provides information about Weedon Island's ar-

chaeological and historical past and gives participants a chance to simply enjoy the lush environment the island has to offer. This hike is only the trial run of what we hope will become a series of hikes that will be regularly offered to the public and visiting school groups at Weedon Island. Keep an eye out and sign up for these hikes and other programs offered by FPAN at Weedon Island here:

www.weedonislandpreserve.ventbrite.com

FPAN West Central Set Sail on Pinta (Cont.)

shallow draught built for getting close to coastal areas. Both ships have four masts rigged for sail, along with diesel engines used as the main means of propulsion. While Niña was built to the same scale as the original vessel, Pinta was built slightly larger than it would have been originally to accommodate the taller stature of modern sailors and visitors.

Jeff and I made the voyage to Palmetto aboard Pinta, the larger of the two. It was no pleasure cruise (they put us to work!) but an amazing and unforgettable experience nonetheless. Standing at the bow, keeping watch for buoys and crab traps as night began to fall, it was easy to imagine we were back in the 15th century, ex-



Above: Jeff on the look-out for crab traps and Nina off the starboard bow.

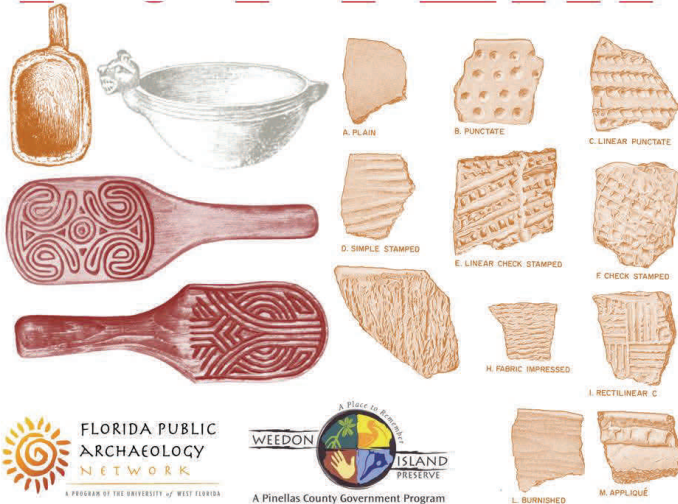
Right: Nina and Pinta in port at the marina in Palmetto.

ploring a coastline that no European eyes had ever seen before.

It was also interesting to see the ships through the eyes of an archaeologist. Timbers that we often see broken up and decaying on the sea floor were instead in their proper place in the ship's framework. It was hard not to constantly think "what would this frame, mast, spar, chain, look like on a shipwreck?" "Would it be possible to figure out where it originally went on the boat?" Not only can these ships inspire us about the exploration of the New World, but also about how archaeologists study what those explorers left behind!



ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS: POTTERY



Learn to identify different prehistoric pottery types from around Florida and how archaeologists use them to learn about people in the past in this free workshop, June 1st. Designed for prehistoric pottery pros and novices alike!

For more info: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6243270791/eorg>

Archaeology Bike Tour for Bradenton

By: Ryan Harke

This summer, FPAN West Central staff will be working on the creation of an "archaeology bike tour" that takes riders to several historic and prehistoric points of interest in northwest Bradenton. Notable stops include the Boca Del Rio Marina, De Soto National Memorial, and the Pillsbury Mound. Interested bikers will be able to access a map of the trail through the FPAN West Central website, a link to a Google Map that displays the route, as well as icons containing photos and interesting information on the history and archaeology of each stop on the tour. In addition, FPAN-created promotional postcards will be housed at several of the sites.

They will include a map of the trail and information on the places of interest along the tour so that riders can take them home or share the trail with their friends. Look out for more information in the coming months on this exciting new example of archaeotourism in Manatee County.



The view from the De Soto National Memorial in Bradenton.

FPAN “Digs into Reading” (Cont.)

long ago? By August, we'll be ready to present this summer's final *Archaeology Works* on Prehistoric Hunting Technology. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page and the Center's Eventbrite page for more information on how to sign up.

Outside of the workshop programs, it's shaping up to be one of our busiest summers yet. On top of planning for and accepting applications for two Junior Archaeologist summer camps, a week-long opportunity each (in partnership with the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education), we're also scheduling time in the field to finish a small survey project in Ybor City.

In addition to all of this, we're also partnering with many local county libraries in collaboration with statewide programming that bring archaeology into focus for young readers. The Collaborative Summer Library Program theme for summer 2013 is “Dig Into Reading”. Look for FPAN programs at a local library near you and make sure to check our events page calendar. We will be

presenting two different programs designed for elementary and middle/high school aged kids throughout the summer at different library locations.

Descriptions for our “Dig into Reading” Programs this summer:

Dive into Archaeology

Archaeologists don't just work on land, they also try to learn about past people through the things they left behind underwater! In this fun and educational program, kids learn about the basics of archaeology as well as some of Florida's important shipwrecks. Archaeologists from the Florida Public Archaeology Network at USF will give a short presentation on underwater archaeology and shipwrecks, then kids get to participate in hands-on activities that teach them about the archaeological process: shipwreck on a tarp (kids learn how archaeologists map and record shipwrecks underwater and get to try it out themselves) and build-a-boat (kids learn about the parts of a boat, build their own, and test it out). (Grades 6-12)

Discover Prehistoric Florida

Learn about Florida's past peoples in this fun and educational program for kids. People have lived throughout Florida for thousands of years, but the only way we know about them is through archaeology and the clues they left behind. Archaeologists from the Florida Public Archaeology Network at USF will give a presentation on what it was like to live in prehistoric Florida through time, complete with real artifacts and replicas of tools that ancient Floridians would have used to survive. (Grades K-5)

“DIG INTO READING” PROGRAM DATES:

MAY

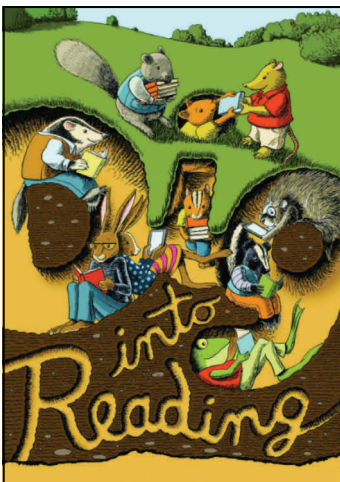
- 5/20, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
NORTH TAMPA BRANCH LIBRARY (6-7PM)

JUNE

- 6/5, *DIVE INTO ARCHAEOLOGY*
NORTH PORT LIBRARY (6-8PM), SARASOTA CO.
- 6/8, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
PALM HARBOR LIBRARY (11-NOON), PINELLAS CO.
- 6/11, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
SULPHUR SPRINGS ELEMENTARY (2-3PM), TAMPA
- 6/12, *DIVE INTO ARCHAEOLOGY*
PINELLAS PARK LIBRARY (6:30-8PM), PINELLAS CO.
- 6/13, *DIVE INTO ARCHAEOLOGY*
JAN PLATT REGIONAL LIBRARY (5-6PM), TAMPA
- 6/19, *DIVE INTO ARCHAEOLOGY*
C. BLYTHE ANDREWS LIBRARY (3-4PM), TAMPA
- 6/20, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
PALMETTO BRANCH LIBRARY (6-7PM), MANATEE CO.

JULY

- 7/2, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
CLEARWATER COUNTRYSIDE LIBRARY (2-3PM)
- 7/3, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
EGYPT LAKE LIBRARY (1:30-2:30PM), TAMPA
- 7/6, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
NORTH PORT LIBRARY (1-2PM), SARASOTA COUNTY
- 7/9, *DIVE INTO ARCHAEOLOGY*
UPPER TAMPA BAY LIBRARY (4:30-5:30PM), TAMPA
- 7/10, *DIVE INTO ARCHAEOLOGY*
RIVERVIEW LIBRARY (3-4PM), HILLSBOROUGH CO.
- 7/11, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
C. BLYTHE ANDREWS LIBRARY (10-11AM), TAMPA
- 7/15, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
CLEARWATER MAIN LIBRARY (2-3PM)
- 7/18, *DIVE INTO ARCHAEOLOGY*
CLEARWATER MAIN LIBRARY (2-3PM)
- 7/20, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
CLEARWATER EAST LIBRARY (2-3PM)
- 7/30, *DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA*
LUTZ LIBRARY (2-3PM), HILLSBOROUGH CO.



New Documentary Research of Maximo Park

By: Phyllis Kolianos

Maximo Park is located at the very southern end of the Pinellas peninsula in St. Petersburg. This 70-acre park includes boat ramps, picnic shelters, a disc golf course, and important archaeological sites with shell middens. In 2011, the FPAN West Central staff helped address management issues related to the erosion of some of the shell mounds by implementing a new beach stabilization plan.

Preliminary research into the possibility of a National Register of Historic Places application has revealed some interesting documentary sources concerning Maximo Park's historical significance. It was named after the first reported settler in this area, Maximo Antonio Hernandez, who according to some early sources established a "fishing rancho" at the site. In 1842, Maximo filed a homestead claim for the southeast quarter of Township 32S, Range 16E, Section 10 which encompasses the land where the Park now sits. This was confirmed by the field notes of

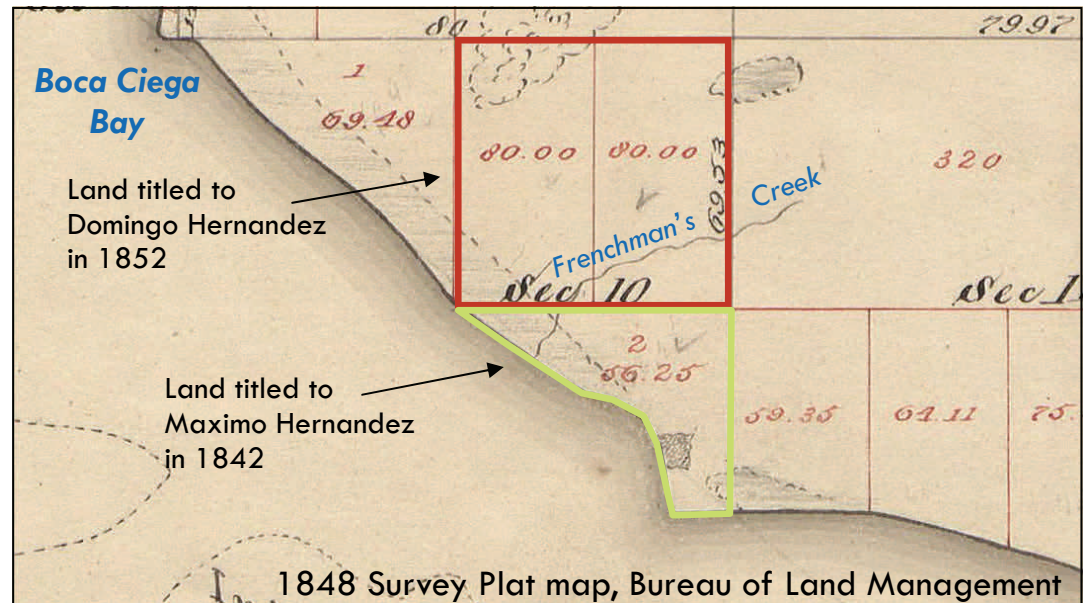
U.S. surveyor, George Watson Jr., in May 1848. The great hurricane of September 1848 totally destroyed the rancho, but there are several different stories as to what happened to Maximo Hernandez after this natural disaster.

However, in 1852, Domingo Hernandez, widow of Maximo Hernandez, filed a

claim for property on the northeast quarter of Township 32S, Range 16E, Section 10, and was given title to that land. This is now the location of Eckerd College, right across Frenchman's Creek and to the north of Maximo Park. In 1972, an area on the Eckerd College campus was commemorated as the location of the first homestead in Pinellas County by the Daughters of

the American Revolution.

Where is the true original location of this historical site? Is there any evidence left from the destroyed homestead? Perhaps FPAN, with help from the City of St. Pete and community groups, can solve this mystery through archaeological investigation, ground truthing and research at Maximo Park.



The area to the south of Frenchman's Creek, comprised of the southeast corner of Domingo Hernandez's land and the majority of the land titled to Maximo Hernandez, is now managed by the City of St. Petersburg as Maximo Park.

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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/



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