

Experience Archaeology



FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK
WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER

Summer Edition

July 2013

Support Historic Preservation in Florida at DHR Regional Meetings

By: Becky O'Sullivan

A series of regional meetings are being sponsored in 2013 by the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources to provide citizens an opportunity to review the state's new comprehensive historic preservation plan. Participants will discuss how the plan can guide efforts to work together to preserve Florida's history and historical, archaeological, and cultural resources.

The plan is posted online at: www.flheritage.com/

[preservation/comprehensive](#)

Meetings will be facilitated by staff from the Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation. For more information, call the local contacts, or Barbara Mattick, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Survey & Registration, at 1-800-847-7278, or Barbara.Mattick@DOS.myflorida.com

This is your chance to let your voice be heard in regards to how archaeological sites and historic resources should be managed within

the state of Florida. Be sure to mark your calendar, and I hope to see you all there. In our area, the closest meeting will be held in Sarasota:

**Thursday, August 15
3-5 PM**

UF/IFAS Extension
aka The Green Building At
Twin Lakes Park
6700 Clark Road
Sarasota

Contact: *Lorrie Muldowney,*
941 861-6883

Upcoming Events:

- **1 Aug:** DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA @ 78TH ST LIBRARY, TAMPA
- **5 Aug:** DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA @ AUSTIN DAVIS LIBRARY, PASCO CO.
- **15 Aug:** DHR COMP PLAN MEETING IN SARASOTA
- **17 Aug:** ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS: HUNTING TECH @ WEEDON ISLAND
- **4 SEP:** DISCOVER PREHISTORIC FLORIDA @ SOUTH MANATEE BRANCH LIBRARY
- **19 SEP:** SPANISH FISHING RANCHOS @ SAFETY HARBOR LIBRARY
- **5 OCT:** ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS: BONES @ WEEDON ISLAND

New Activity Book on Weedon Island Archaeology

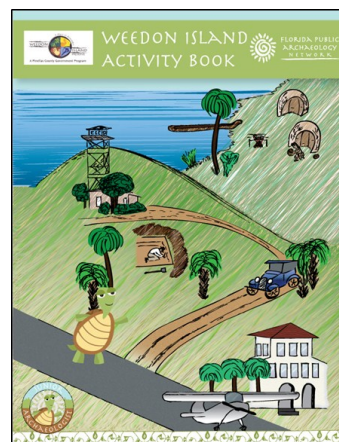
By: Kassie Kemp

Our partnership with Pinellas County at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center allows for exciting new opportunities for FPAN programs. The combination of this partnership and the Junior Archaeologist program will provide fun youth activities for school groups and other groups on field trips. As part of these youth activities, we are also developing programs specific to the cultural past of Weedon Island. These activities will vary from classroom programs and exhibit gallery scavenger hunts, to guided hikes and other outdoor activities.

To supplement these programs, Phyllis Kolianos and I are developing a Junior Archaeologist activity book specific to the unique past of Weedon Island. Similar to the activity book our summer campers receive to help them learn about different aspects of archaeology, this book will feature Tommy the Tortoise, Junior Archaeologist. Throughout the book, Tommy will guide the kids through activities that will teach them all about archaeology and Weedon Island's rich prehistoric and historic past. The book is designed to be used during the provided programs, enhancing the kids' involvement and retention, and also afterwards as a

resource at home. The activity book first introduces the children to archaeology and gives them information

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Activity book for kids interested in archaeology at Weedon Island.

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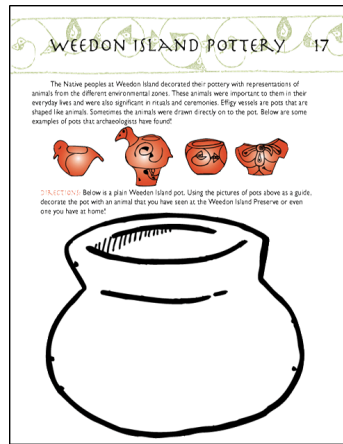
Experience Archaeology

Weedon Activity Book (Cont.)

on Weedon Island's past. It then goes into the topics of the three guided hikes we plan to offer. *People and Plants* provides a checklist of pictures and descriptions of plants that can be seen at the Preserve, along with information on how people used them in the past, which the students can check off as they encounter them. The *Environmental Zones and Resources* section of the book discusses the three main natural communities present at the Preserve and which important resources each zone would have provided for Native Americans. Finally, *Historic Weedon Island* describes the interesting history of the area after Dr. Leslie Weedon acquired the land and teaches kids a little about historical archaeology.

The Weedon Island activity book will also have a regional map of other museums

and archaeological sites the Junior Archaeologists and their families can visit, a map of the Preserve's hiking trails, and a page for field notes where they can record archaeological site they encounter. The activity book will hopefully engage Weedon Island visitors and inspire them to come back to the Preserve and take part in other FPAN programs.



Fun activity pages let kids explore the past while learning.

Archaeology Works at Weedon Island in September & October

By: Becky O'Sullivan

With the success of our first three archaeology workshops at the Weedon Island Preserve, we've decided to continue our Archaeology Works series. One Saturday a month from 10 – Noon we will focus on a different archaeological topic and explore how artifacts can inform us about the past. Our September 7th workshop will cover prehistoric pottery, while our October 5th one will focus on human bones. To register go to the web links below, space is limited!

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, September 7th. To register: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/7538031455/eorg>

Learn to identify different bones from the human body, as well as how archaeologists study them to learn about past people's diets, activities, and general health, October 5th. To register: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/7537734567/eorg>

Investigating Shell Tools: What's Your Damage?

By: Marty Menz

About a year-and-a-half ago, I found myself sitting out on my back patio clad in safety goggles and gloves, pounding raw oysters open with a shell hammer I had made. You can imagine the looks I received from the neighbors. No, I hadn't gone insane; I wasn't under the influence of some extraterrestrial brain-slug, I was doing experimental archaeology. You may have heard the following mantra restated in any one of a thousand ways, that archaeology is not just about the artifacts themselves, but what they can tell us about the people who made and used them. Experimental archaeology is just one tool in the archaeological arsenal that allows us to reconstruct how people may have used the artifacts we find by giving replicas of them a try ourselves.

As fun as it may sound, it's not enough to just start wailing away on stuff using a replica shell hammer. After I was finished with my spree of mollusk obliteration, I took my replicas into the lab and compared the battered working ends of my tools with those of an archaeological

sample under a microscope. This "use-wear analysis" is where the questions we have about these tools really get answered. Every tool sustains damage when it is used - Newton's Third Law essentially says so - and by studying variation in that damage, sometimes down to the microscopic level, we can hopefully say something of archaeological consequence about what an artifact was used for and how.

Volunteering with FPAN West Central staff for their Archaeology Works: Shell event, I had the opportunity to let people give use-wear comparison a try themselves. By looking at the basic differences in the way a shell hammer breaks as it bashes different materials like bone and shell, the folks who participated got to experience both the frustrating ambiguity sometimes present in use-wear analysis as well as the excitement of making a positive identification. Take a look for yourself and see just how similar some examples can be

Marty recently graduated from USF with a B.A. in Anthropology. His Honors Thesis explored shell tools recovered at the Crystal River site.



Left: Close-up view of probable use-wear on the working edge of a shell tool collected from the Roberts Island site. Experimental archaeology is one way to try to figure out what shell tools like this were used for in the past.

Right: An experimental hammer created by Marty as part of his research into shell tool use. This hammer was used to crush oyster shells. By comparing the pattern of damage to archaeological examples, Marty was able to conclude that the archaeological hammer from Roberts Island was most likely used to break other shells.



AWIARE Offers Hands-On Weedon Workshops

Saturday, October 19, 2013

The Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE) is offering two workshops:

- *Florida Native Plant Use by Florida's Prehistoric People, presented by Florida historian, Elizabeth Neily*
- *Stone and Shell Tool Technology, presented by Bill Hicks, recognized nationally as an expert in prehistoric stone and shell tool manufacture.*

Weave a basket or knap a stone or shell tool with the instructors. Both workshops are offered to the general public. Must be 18 years or older. Registration fee is \$45.00 per workshop. Each workshop

will be conducted from 10AM until 3PM at the AWIARE Archaeological Research Station, 1500 Weedon Island Dr NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Bring your bag lunch. Bottled water, gloves and safety glasses will be provided. Workshops are limited to 10 persons each and the deadline for registration is Wednesday, October 9th. Please print out this ad and payment with your class choice circled to the address above. Only checks or money orders accepted. Please check website for current openings. In the event of inclement weather, Saturday, 10/26, is established as an alternate date.



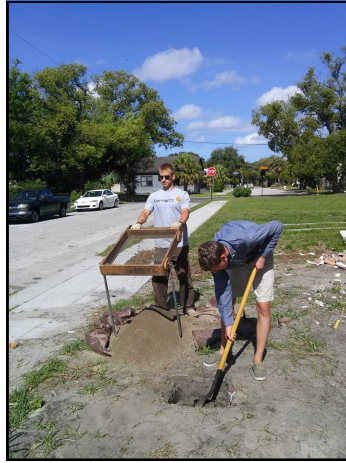
Left: USF Grad Marty Menz talks to our Archaeology Works: Shell participants about use-wear analysis and how people might have used shell tools in the past. Different patterns of damage on the edge of a shell tool could point to their use on different materials such as wood, bone, or other shells.

Meet our Summer Intern: Jeffrey Borislow

By: Jeffrey Borislow

I recently graduated from the University of Central Florida with a B.A. in Anthropology. This summer I took a course at the University of Maryland in cultural resource management. As part of this course I completed a six week internship at the FPAN West Central Office. Throughout my time interning for FPAN this summer I have had a variety of experiences that have both surprised and intrigued me regarding the field of archaeology.

Throughout my internship I was presented with an array of different opportunities that allowed me to be involved in the day to day workings of the FPAN West Central office. These opportunities ranged from helping out with FPAN library programs associated with the libraries' "Dig into Reading" summer reading campaign to performing shovel tests under the former



Jeffrey and Ryan shovel test a lot as part of our Ybor City archaeological survey.

house of Baseball Hall of Famer Al Lopez. Working closely with the FPAN staff, I was able to get a better understanding of what Public Archaeologists at FPAN actually do on a day-to-day basis, as well as what they accomplish through these outreach programs and how hard they work to maintain public interest in archaeology.

I count my time working with children in the Junior Archaeologist summer camps among the more interesting of the experiences I have had while working with FPAN. At these camps I realized that kids actually are very interested in archaeology and can understand some of the concepts associated with the discipline. In addition to the variety of outreach programs that I helped out with, I also spent time working with artifacts from an FPAN excavation in Ybor City. Cleaning and sorting these artifacts was often disgusting, and very different from the sorts of archaeological collections I have worked with before, but also interesting. There were some genuinely fascinating items hidden in the piles of broken glass and rust.

What has always interested me about archaeology was the human connection that bridges the past to the present through the analysis

of the material remains left by people who have existed at a location through time. I think that the work that FPAN does helps to strengthen this bond for current and future generations. I'm really glad I got the opportunity to work with the FPAN West Central crew this summer.



Jeffrey helps teach kids about what makes a good boat at one of our summer library programs.

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.

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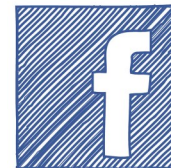
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Check us out on the web:

www.flpublicarchaeology.org/wcrc/



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