



# EXPERIENCE ARCHAEOLOGY

FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK  
West Central Regional Center



SPRING EDITION

April 2014

## Register now for our Junior Archaeologist Summer Camp at Weedon Island

By: Becky O'Sullivan

It's that time again! Spring is quickly turning into summer around here and that means time to start thinking about a fun and educational summer camp for your child. FPAN staff will be putting on our Junior Archaeologist camp again this year at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center in St. Petersburg.

This summer camp is designed for children with a strong interest in prehistory and history as well as learning how early people interacted with their environment. Campers will learn about the importance of archaeology and will gain understanding about natural resources in the Tampa Bay estuary. Highlights of the camps include



*Campers get hands-on experience and learn from real archaeologists.*

guest experts, a tour of an archaeological site, hands-on archaeology, experiments and crafts, pottery making, prehistoric hunting technology, and earning the certificate of Tommy the Tortoise, Junior Archaeologist.

The camp is open to kids

7-11 years old and registration is \$150 per camper per week. Camp runs from 9am-4pm and before-camp care is available from 7:45 am to 9:00 am for an additional fee of \$50 each week.

**WHEN:** July 21 - July 25 or July 28 - August 1

**WHERE:** Weedon Island Preserve, St. Pete

**AGES:** 7 - 11 years old

**COST:** \$150/week

For more information please contact Becky O'Sullivan at [rosulliv@usf.edu](mailto:rosulliv@usf.edu) or 813-396-2325. You can also register or find more information at:

<http://awiare.org/?p=843>

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*Campers have fun taking hikes, doing experiments, and making crafts.*

By: Becky O'Sullivan

The Florida Public Archaeology Network, in cooperation with the City of Gainesville and the Historic Evergreen Cemetery Association announces the inaugural Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) Conference in Gainesville, FL. This two-day conference will feature preservationists and historic cemetery experts presenting a variety of talks and hands-on workshops.

For those who have already been to a CRPT workshop this conference will feature an expansion on popular CRPT topics alongside new sessions and demonstrations based on participant feedback. Registration for the full two-day conference includes two (2) lunches, an evening mixer on Tuesday June 3, as well as workshop materials and literature for \$60. Registration for only the Wednesday, June 4th sessions

is \$15 and includes one (1) lunch and workshop materials.

Mary Homick of the popular Facebook page "Historic Cemeteries" will be on hand for a lunch-time talk on June 3. She will discuss photography and the aesthetic value of cemeteries, and will also conduct a photography clinic on the afternoon of June 4. Sharyn Thompson, author of Florida's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook, will be the Keynote Speaker. She will present "A Historical Overview of Cemetery Preservation in Florida" at the banquet the night of June 3rd.

For more information, to see the conference program, or to register follow this link:

<http://flpublicarchaeology.org/programs/CRPTconf.php>

You can also contact Becky at [rosulliv@usf.edu](mailto:rosulliv@usf.edu)

## You're Invited to the Inaugural Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) Conference

June 3-4, 2014  
in Gainesville, FL

More information coming soon to:  
[www.thiswondrousplace.org](http://www.thiswondrousplace.org)  
[www.FLpublicarchaeology.org/crc](http://www.FLpublicarchaeology.org/crc)



## Explore Archaeology this Summer at your Local Library

By: Becky O'Sullivan

This summer we are again partnering with local libraries for their annual summer reading initiative. This year's theme is *Fizz, Boom, Read*. We'll be presenting programs that focus on the science of archaeology and how archaeologists use scientific methods to investigate the past. 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 different age groups throughout the summer at different library locations.

### Archaeology Works: Materials Science

Archaeologists are detectives of the past who use the scientific method to solve mysteries about people who lived long ago. In this presentation you'll get to explore ancient artifacts from stone tools to pottery under a microscope just like an archaeologist would. You'll get to see what aspects of these materials we, as archaeologists, focus on to get information about past technologies, and what aspects of Native American life we can learn about by studying the materials they left behind. For example, by looking at a piece of pottery under the

microscope, we can see what materials it contains and get an idea of how the pot was made and also what it was used for. Looking at shell and stone tools under a microscope shows us use-wear that is not visible to the naked eye. (Grades K-8)

### Archaeology Works: How Old is it?

Archaeologists find lots of clues to the past, but how do they figure out how old all those dusty artifacts are? From looking at how artifact styles change through time to running high tech tests on them to get a better date, archaeologists have many different dating techniques at

their disposal. In this presentation you'll get to learn about a few of these different dating methods, then discover how they can help us learn about the people who have lived in Florida throughout time! (Grades 6-12)



# Upcoming Archaeology Events

## MAY:

### 5/15-17 **Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Conference**

The 2014 conference will take place in Tampa, Florida and will feature the largest offering ever of workshops, local tours, and special events in the bustling downtown, Ybor City, and historic buildings and neighborhoods that define Tampa. For more information, or to register, go to [www.floridatrust.org](http://www.floridatrust.org)

### 5/31 **Archaeology Works: Hunting Tech**

10-Noon, Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE, Saint Petersburg

How would you put dinner on the table if you were living in prehistoric Florida? Archaeologists look at how artifacts like stone tools change through time to learn about advances in ancient hunting technology. Learn about these changes as well as the atlatl, a prehistoric hunting tool used in Florida, and make your own to take home.

## JUNE:

### 6/3-4 **Cemetery Resource Protection Training Conference (CRPTC)**

9:00-5:00pm, Thomas Center, 302 NE 6th Ave, Gainesville

### 6/7 **Archaeology Works: Materials Science**

1:00-2:00pm, North Port Library, 13800 Tamiami Trail, North Port (Sarasota County)

### 6/12 **Dive into Archaeology**

10:00-11:00am, Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Dr, Holmes Beach

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.

### 6/12 **Archaeology Works: Materials Science**

2:00-3:00pm, South Manatee Branch Library, 6081 26th St W, Bradenton (Manatee County)

### 6/23 **Archaeology Works: Materials Science**

1:00-2:00pm, Lake Alfred Public Library, 245 N Seminole Ave, Lake Alfred (Polk County)

### 6/27 **Archaeology Works: Materials Science**

2:00-3:00pm, Rocky Bluff Library, 6750 U.S. 301, Ellenton (Manatee County)

### 6/28 **Archaeology Works: Dirt**

10-Noon, Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Drive NE, Saint Petersburg

Archaeologists spend a lot of time in the dirt, but what can the soil tell us about people in the past? By studying the layers of soil in the ground and its composition we can learn more about how old a site might be or what activities occurred there. Learn how to get your hands dirty like an archaeologist and explore some of the techniques they use to study the history beneath your feet.

### 6/30 **Archaeology Works: Materials Science**

3:00-4:00pm, Gulfport Library, 5501 28th Ave S, Gulfport (Pinellas County)

## JULY:

### 7/2 **Archaeology Works: Materials Science**

2:00-3:00pm, Palmetto Branch Library, 923 6th Street West, Palmetto (Manatee County)

### 7/9 **Wee Time at the Library: Archaeology**

10:00-11:00am, South Manatee Branch Library, 6081 26th St W, Bradenton (Manatee County)

### 7/9 **Archaeology Works: Materials Science**

10:00-11:00am, Polk City Library, 215 S Bougainvillea Ave, Polk City (Polk County)

### 7/16 **Archaeology Works: How Old Is It?**

6:00-7:00pm, North Port Library, 13800 Tamiami Trail, North Port (Sarasota County)

### 7/18 **Archaeology Works: Materials Science**

10:00-11:00am, Latt Maxcy Memorial Library, 15 N Magnolia Ave, Frostproof (Polk County)

By: Becky O'Sullivan

How do you make a concept like stages of lithic reduction interesting to the public? How do you convince people that tiny flakes of stone (not even arrow heads or stone knives) can be important to understanding people in the past? For public archaeologists such as myself, this is the sort of quandary we face on a daily basis. One good way is to give people a simplified visual to interact with. In general, when you give people a simple model to start with it tends to be much easier for them to think about more difficult or abstract concepts.... such as lithic reduction! Below are instructions for an easy to make puzzle to get the point across (sorry...) as well as tips on how to use it when talking to the public.

## MAKING THE PUZZLE

What you'll need:

1. Round, flat piece of wood, preferably with bark still on. These can be purchased at most craft stores
2. Jigsaw
3. Sandpaper or a Dremel
4. Clear coat or shellac

Draw out a design for your puzzle pieces onto the wooden round. Make sure that your pieces aren't too complicated but that they will end up with differing amounts of bark on one edge. Some pieces should have lots of bark (primary flakes), while others have a little (secondary flakes), and a few should have none (tertiary flakes). You can model the "tool" in the middle after the outline of your favorite projectile point.



*With just a few simple tools you can make your own lithic puzzle.*

We went with a Clovis point because of our Paleoindian theme for Florida Archaeology Month, and its simple outline.

Once you get your pieces cut out, carefully sand the edges. I used a Dremel tool to add a little "chipped stone" effect to each piece, this also helps you remember which side is up for each piece and makes the puzzle easier to put back together. Finally, add a few layers of clear coat and let dry.

## USING THE PUZZLE

Have your participant take the puzzle apart, not put it together. Stone tool making is all about careful reduction so by having people take the puzzle apart you will make them mimic some of the basic stages.

Have some actual stone tools, flakes, or pieces of raw stone like chert or flint on hand to compare to the puzzle pieces. People often learn best when they can compare things they know

and understand to the new things you are trying to teach them about.

Use other everyday comparisons to help them understand what you are talking about. For instance, when I talk about cortex I

often compare it to the outside of a potato. If you were going to make french fries out of a potato you would probably want to get rid of the gross looking skin of the potato to get to the starchy goodness inside. It's the same with stone tool manufacture. The gross, weathered outer layer of the rock (cortex) is no good for making stone tools so you need to carefully remove it to get to the siliceous goodness inside.

Explain that often these leftover pieces are just as important to understanding a site as the tool itself. They can reveal important information about the type of stone tool making that was going on in a specific location. Were people collecting raw stone? Working stone to make blanks and rudimentary tools? Sharpening tools that were already made? Debitage is the key to answering these questions.



*Compare the known of your puzzle to the unknown of stone tools. The bark on the outside of the puzzle is the same as the cortex on the outside of the flakes. Take the puzzle apart step-by-step. First remove the pieces with lots of cortex (primary flakes), then those with less (secondary flakes), then those with no cortex (tertiary flakes).*

## Meet the Newest Addition to FPAN West Central: Brittany Yabczanka

By: Brittany Yabczanka

When I was very young, playing in the dirt with my dog, we dug up an old bottle shaped like a train. I ran inside, desperate to know what it was, where it came from, and how it found its way to our backyard. This memory lingered in my mind and inspired me to major in anthropology with a focus on archaeology once I began attending the University of South Florida in 2010 in my hometown of Tampa, FL. Before that I went to Hillsborough Community College for two years for general studies.

While at USF, in the

summer of 2012, I attended the Crystal River Early Village Archaeological Project (CREVAP) field school at the Crystal River site in Citrus County, FL. There, Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn and many others taught me all about archaeological field and lab work. I also had the chance to interact with the park visitors and talk to them about archaeology. I never would have thought that it was something I would enjoy, but I loved it! I did not just learn about archaeology at USF, though. I also took the opportunity to minor in astronomy and learn

about how important the stars were to ancient people. I graduated with my Bachelor's degree in December 2012.

Once I graduated I began volunteering with FPAN regularly. In the summer of 2013 I went to Peru to do some archaeological survey work with the University of Alabama. I am very excited to be back and working in the West Central office where I assist the outreach coordinators. I feel very fortunate that I also have the opportunity to contribute my knowledge by writing blog posts and incorporating ideas about archaeoastronomy.



*Brittany taking part in the Crystal River Early Village Archaeological Project (CREVAP).*

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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 and events in your area, check out our website or click on the images to the right to follow us on Facebook or Twitter.



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