



EXPERIENCE ARCHAEOLOGY

FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK
West Central Regional Center

SPRING EDITION

MAY 2015

Register now for our Junior Archaeologist Summer Camp at Weedon Island

By: Becky O'Sullivan

It's that time again! Summer is right around the corner 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 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 8:00 am to 9:00 am for an additional fee of \$50 each week.



WHEN:
Session 1 July 20 - July 24
Session 2 July 27 - July 31

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

www.awiare.org/?p=994

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This Summer Take an Archaeology Trip on a Tankful

By: Becky O'Sullivan

Summer is just around the corner, but you don't have to go as far as Egypt or Greece to find some cool archaeological sites to visit. Why not check out one of these great spots in your neck of the woods? Wherever you are in Florida, an archaeological site is nearby! These are only a few of the great sites you can visit though, for more info on archaeology in your area check out the "Explore" page on our website:

www.fpan.us/wcrc

Crystal River Archaeological State Park

3400 N Museum Point
Crystal River

Enjoy a stroll through one of Florida's most amazing mound complexes at this great State Park. After walking the site, explore the on site museum with its new interpretive mural or take a guided boat ride on the Crystal River. Trails are also available for hiking and enjoying the diverse natural environment.

Historic Spanish Point

337 N Tamiami Trail
Osprey

Explore the historic and prehistoric past, all while enjoying beautiful gardens and waterfront, at this great park. The "Window to the Past" exhibit gives you the unique opportunity to walk into a prehistoric midden and see how it was built up over time by Native Americans who once lived there. Historic cottages, a chapel, and a pioneer cemetery also
(Continued on page 3)



A new mural at the Crystal River Archaeological State Park depicts prehistoric life at the site.

Upcoming Events

Hands On Archaeology- Volunteer Archaeology Lab

FRIDAY 5/15, 10-Noon

Weedon Island Preserve
1800 Weedon Dr NE
St Petersburg

Ever wonder what archaeologists do with all that stuff they dig up at archaeological sites once the fieldwork is finished? At the FPAN Volunteer Lab, you can come find out for yourself! Learn all about how artifacts and other archaeological material get processed in the laboratory so that we can use them to learn about the past. You will get the chance to sort through, identify, and wash artifacts and other material from real archaeological sites!

All ages are welcome to participate or observe, children 12 and under should be accompanied by an adult.

Archaeology Workshop - Shell Tool Technologies of the Gulf Coast

WEDNESDAY 5/20, 6-7PM

North Port Library
13800 S. Tamiami Trail
North Port

Joining archaeologists from the Florida Public Archaeology Network as they discuss the ways Native Americans along Florida's Gulf Coast used shells in their day-to-day lives. A fun and interactive presentation will be followed by a hands on "show and tell" that will place a variety of tool types within the hands of visitors. During the show and tell period and after guests are encouraged to ask questions. Please pre-register. For all adults and kids age 10 & above.

To register go to:
<http://goo.gl/5jirGH>

Florida Anthropological Society Annual Conference

MAY 28-31

Hyatt Regency Sarasota
1000 Boulevard of the Arts
Sarasota
Time Sifters Archaeology

Society is pleased to be hosting the 67th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota. On Saturday, hear talks from archaeologists from throughout Florida on their latest research. On Sunday, attendees have a choice of four different field trips, including guided tours by area archaeologists and heritage specialists: a morning cruise on Sarasota Bay, dive trip to the USS Narcissus, tour of Historic Spanish Point, tour of Manatee Mineral Springs and Gamble Plantation. We have a great weekend planned that will celebrate the past and the present of this great community and, of course, research from all over the state. For more information go to: www.fasweb.org

Archaeology Works: Little Salt Spring

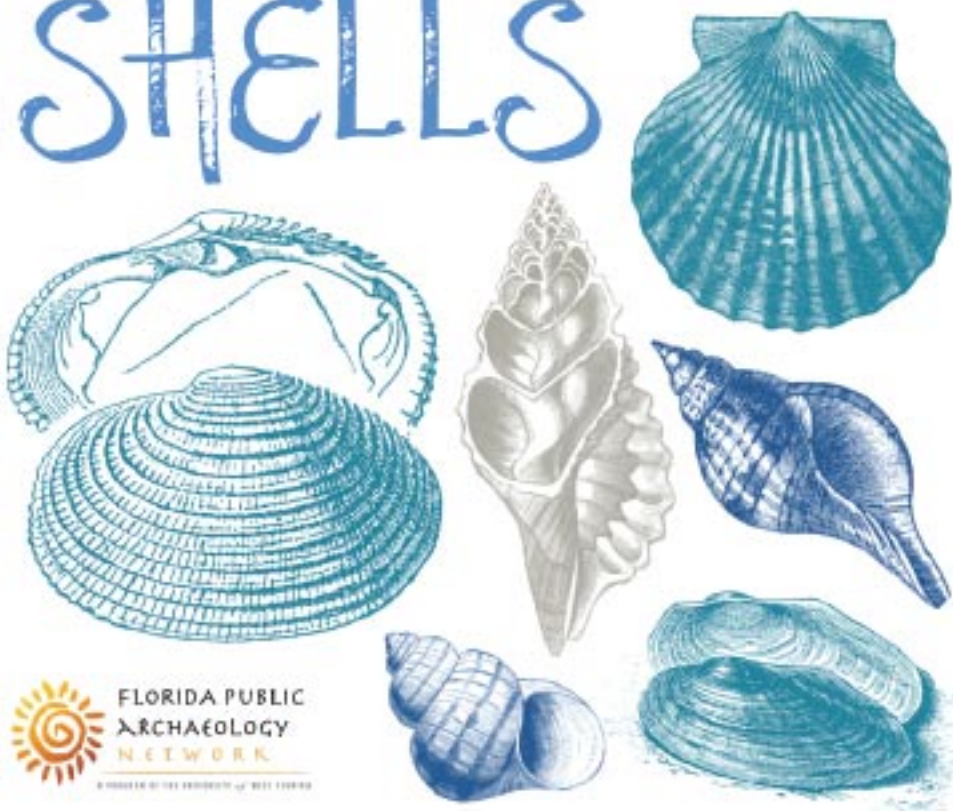
SATURDAY 6/13, 1-3PM

Morgan Family Center
6207 W Price Blvd
North Port

Come on out to the Morgan Family Center to learn all about Little Salt Spring and the past peoples who lived there. Explore the archaeology of Little Salt Spring with hands-on activities and demonstrations so you can investigate the past like an archaeologist! This free workshop is appropriate for all ages and backgrounds. All children will receive a Junior Archaeologist, Little Salt Spring Activity Booklet. For more information email Kassie at kkemp@mail.usf.edu

ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS:

SHELLS



FEATURED EVENT!

ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS: SHELLS

WHEN: Saturday, May 16th
10:00 AM - Noon

WHERE: Weedon Island Preserve
1800 Weedon Dr NE
St Petersburg

Archaeologists study ancient shells to not only learn about the diets and tools of prehistoric Floridians, but also the environments they lived in. Learn to identify different shell types from around the Tampa Bay area and the ways archaeologists use them to learn about the past.

Recommended for all ages.

Registration is requested but not required. For more information go to: <http://goo.gl/pnPDTA>

Preservation is on the Agenda at the Historic Palma Sola Cemetery in Bradenton

By: Jeff Moates

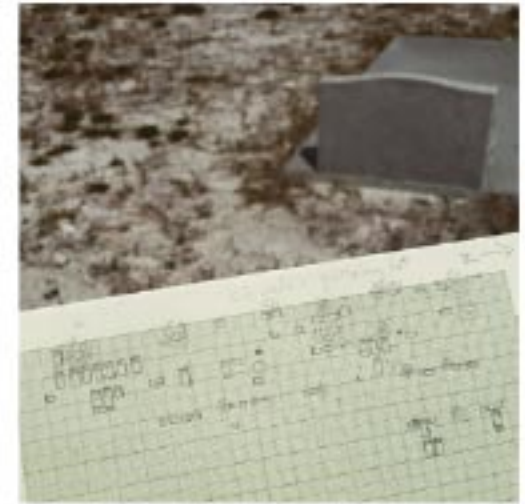
Located in Northwest Bradenton, Manatee County, the historic cemetery of Palma Sola provided an excellent backdrop recently for FPAN's ongoing cemetery training and preservation workshops. Local firefighter for the North River Fire District, Bob Tollise, requested FPAN's assistance for help organizing and cleaning up the old cemetery. Walking

through the Palma Sola Cemetery is a local history lesson. Family names of the folks who settled in western Manatee County in the late 19th century abound in this cemetery.

The Palma Sola Baptist Church had always maintained the burial records and tasked Bob (or Bob took it upon himself) to create a lasting cemetery record for the church. Initial efforts of clearing and removing debris

opened quite a lot of available land for the church to continue to utilize as cemetery plots. Once that task was complete, Bob asked if we could provide the training and get his crew of volunteers started on headstone transcriptions and the creation of a cemetery map. We were happy to help and are pleased to report that with the completion of the cemetery map, Bob and his volunteer crew have

finished transcribing information from every headstone: about 450 graves!



Beginning to map the cemetery.

Archaeology on a Tankful (Continued from pg 1)



Visit the Safety Harbor Museum to see artifacts from throughout this community's past.

take you back in time to the area's pioneer past.

Emerson Point Preserve & Madira Bickel Mound

5801 17th St W, Palmetto and 955 Bayshore Dr, Terra Ceia

Take a trip to both of these prehistoric mound sites in northern Manatee County and step back in time. At each site take the opportunity to walk to the top of the "temple mound" and feel what it might have been like to live at the site more than

1,000 years ago. Hiking trails and canoe launches at Emerson Point add to the activities you can enjoy.

Safety Harbor Museum & Philippe Park

329 S Bayshore Blvd and 2525 Phillippe Pkwy Safety Harbor

Drive to the north end of Old Tampa Bay to the hip little community of Safety Harbor and see some great archaeology while you are at it. First go check out the

Safety Harbor Museum to see prehistoric and historic artifacts from the area. A temporary exhibit on the Civil War, full of cool artifacts and dioramas, is also worth checking out. After that, drive up the road just a bit to Philippe Park and walk to the top of the Safety Harbor Mound. This site is thought to have been the capital of the Tocobaga people, the Native Americans who lived along this part of Tampa Bay at the time of European contact.

CRPT Conference Coming Soon!

Join us for the second Cemetery Resource Protection Training Conference June 2nd and 3rd in DeLand, FL! Registration cost is \$60, including a t-shirt as well as reception with snacks and adult beverages on the evening of June 2nd. This conference is designed for CRPT alums and those who are new to cemetery preservation. For more information, to see the preliminary program, or to register please go to:

fpan.us/workshops/CRPT.php

Save the Date!

June 2 & 3, 2015

Coming to DeLand, Florida

CRPTC
cemetery resource protection
training & conference

By: Becky O'Sullivan

Every summer, libraries throughout the country gear up for the long summer months with special summer reading programs for kids, teens, and adults. Every year has a unique theme, and for the past few years we have come up with new library programs to fit with the relevant theme. This year's summer library program theme is "Every Hero has a Story" and centers on super heroes, discovery, and new experiences.

This summer we will be bringing programs for kids and adults to libraries throughout our region. You can check out the upcoming dates on our event page or in the box on the right. Don't see a library near you? Contact us and let us know about your favorite library in your area; we'll see if we can set something up! For more information on programming or scheduling please contact Becky at rosulliv@usf.edu

Escape the Ordinary: Prehistoric Florida (Adults)

Many people come to Florida to enjoy our sunshine and beaches, but they don't know about the thousands of years of prehistory right beneath their feet. This presentation will explore some of Florida's most unique archaeological sites and the amazing finds that archaeologists have made there. Wherever you live in Florida, a cool archaeological site you can visit is never far away!

Time Detectives: Discover Ancient Florida (Children)

Archaeologists don't dig for treasure, their super power is looking for ancient clues to better understand people who lived in the past. Learn about these "Time Detectives" in this fun and interactive presentation, then see what mysteries you can solve by examining clues from Florida's prehistoric past.

Upcoming Library Programs

THURSDAY MAY 21 @6PM

Regency Park Library, New Port Richey
Escape the Ordinary - Adult Program

SATURDAY JUNE 20 @11AM

New River Library, Wesley Chapel
Time Detectives - Children's Program

TUESDAY JUNE 23 @NOON

Centennial Park Library, Holiday
Escape the Ordinary - Adult Program

FRIDAY JUNE 26 @1PM

North Sarasota Library, Sarasota
Escape the Ordinary - Adult Program

THURSDAY JULY 2 @10AM

Land O'Lakes Library, Land O'Lakes
Escape the Ordinary - Adult Program

FRIDAY JULY 3 @11:15AM

Regency Park Library, New Port Richey
Time Detectives - Children's Program

Interview with an Archaeologist: Christina Perry Sampson

By: Kassie Kemp

Here is an interview with Christina Perry Sampson who received her B.A. from Barnard College in 2009 and is currently a PhD candidate in Anthropological Archaeology at the University of Michigan. She has been conducting field work at the Weedon Island site for her dissertation. I asked her a few questions about her interest in archaeology and her work at Weedon Island.

How did you get into archaeology?

I actually decided to be an anthropologist when I was in

high school, because I wanted to travel and write. Through my Anthropology courses, I gained an appreciation for the way the archaeological record made sense of how people interacted, formed groups, and got along or didn't. I went to New Mexico to do archaeological survey, and I loved fieldwork—spending time outdoors, working as part of a team, and seeing new parts of the country.

What are you doing out at the site? What are you focusing on?

I am excavating domestic contexts, which means a lot

of trash and remains that accumulated when people were processing their food, discarding broken pots, and sometimes just dropping something and losing track of it. The specific area where I am working is next to some ridges of midden that are really obviously mounded on the surface. It's likely that even though people were depositing material on that ridge, they were also conducting a lot of daily living activities in the areas adjacent to it, which is where I have been excavating.

What do you hope to learn?



Archaeologist Christina Perry Sampson.

Interview with an Archaeologist: Christina Perry Sampson

I am working in a couple of different areas of the site because I want to make comparisons across them to see if everyone is eating the same things, or if some people have food that's "better," and to look at other ways that people may or may not have access to the same things as their neighbors. **How will what you learn inform us about the people who once lived there?**

I am interested in variation among the people who lived at Weedon Island. It's important to think about what people at a site were doing differently from each other, as well as the ways they were collaborating, because that's how all communities work. I hope that what I learn at Weedon Island will contribute to a picture of some of the big trends of the time period in terms of foodways, trade, and domestic practice. But we will also get to see

how life was organized within one particular community.

You are still in the middle of this research, so what is your next step in the project?

After I finish excavations, I will be sorting, analyzing, and cataloging artifacts. Some of the material will be analyzed by specialists, like the animal bones; I am in the process of applying for grants to fund that now. I will also be running radiocarbon dates to get a more exact idea of the occupation and see which areas were lived in at the same time. As I pull together all of the data, I'll be using it to write my dissertation over the next two years or so.

Are you coming back to Weedon Island?

I have two short field seasons planned right now—in June and then at the end of November into early December. I'll be around for about three weeks each time.

What was your favorite part of being a temporary Florida resident?

During my most recent field season (in February and March), I appreciated getting to experience the Florida sun while everything was gray and frozen back in Michigan. I also love visiting the ocean, even on colder days. When I'm in Florida I live on the Weedon Island Preserve, which means I get

to see a lot of wildlife, like large predatory birds that fly over the house with fish in their mouths.

For more information on the Weedon Island Preserve go to <http://www.weedonislandpreserve.org/>.

For the unedited version of this interview visit our blog at <http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/blog/wcrl/>



Kassie helps out at the site where Christina is doing fieldwork for her PhD. Love those big block units!

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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.

www.flpublicarchaeology.org/wcrl
www.facebook.com/FPANwestcentral



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