

## International Archaeology Day at Weedon Island

By: Jeff Moates

Just last month on October 17th, also known in these parts as International Archaeology Day, we helped celebrate the public unveiling of the Weedon Island Canoe. In a hallway of course, where else can you display a nearly forty foot-long prehistoric dugout canoe? Actually, the exhibit space at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center could not have worked out better.

Originally located by two local men in 2001, the single canoe sat undocumented for over a thousand years. The Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE)



LEFT: Visitors wait for the ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil the new canoe exhibit at Weedon Island in St. Petersburg.

shepherded the project through to completion.

Several hundred people attended the opening and got a chance to see firsthand the remains of one Florida prehistoric logboat found nearby in a brackish mudflat of Tampa Bay. In addition to seeing the new canoe exhibit, visitors got to learn more about specific aspects of the canoe through different

activity stations. Ancient tool displays showed how the canoe was made, while a conservation table showed the chemistry involved in preserving a 1,000 year old wooden canoe. There was even a canoe race that pitted different style canoes against one another. All in all, it was a fun event and a great celebration of this amazing artifact.

## Ybor City Archaeology Exhibit Opens November 16th!

By: Becky O'Sullivan

Monday, November 16th, FPAN staff, in partnership with our friends at the Ybor City Museum State Park, will unveil a new exhibit focused on archaeology in Ybor City and the survey we conducted of the State Park property. Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, December 5th though, because that's when we will be hosting a Public Archaeology Day at the State Park to celebrate this new exhibit.

More information on this fun event can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

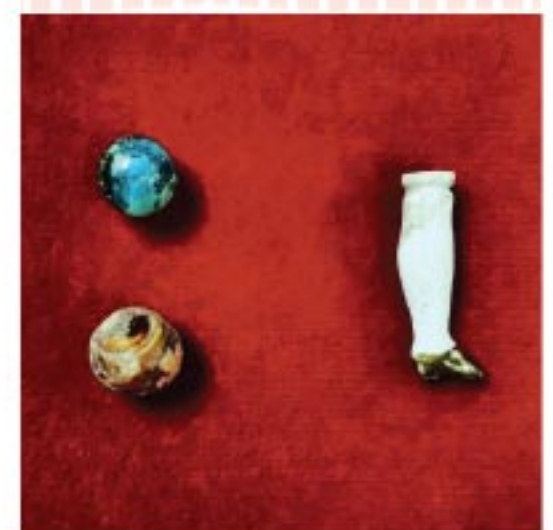
In the summer of 2012, FPAN staff and student volunteers from USF conducted an archaeological survey at the Ybor City Museum State Park in order to look for what might remain beneath the surface. Although there are history books written about this Latin, cigar-making community, along with oral histories, pictures, and memories, we

wanted to see what the archaeological evidence could add to the picture. Will the artifacts these people left behind shed light on a different aspect of Ybor City's history? What can these bits and pieces reveal about this historic neighborhood and its unique character?

We will explore these and other questions in a new exhibit titled "Ybor City Beneath the Surface" that will (Continued on pg. 3)

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Children's toys found at the Ybor City Museum State Park. The new exhibit at the park highlights the archaeology and history of the city block where the State Park is located today.

# Upcoming Events

## Hands-On Workshop - Archaeology Works: Stars

**SATURDAY 11/14, 10-Noon**  
Weedon Island Preserve  
1800 Weedon Dr NE  
St Petersburg

Native Americans used the stars to tell stories, keep track of seasons & to get from place to place. Join us to learn more about the importance of the night sky in prehistoric times and the techniques archaeologists use to unlock their ancient mystery.

Recommended for all ages.  
To register go to:  
<http://goo.gl/xEHMLQ>

## Archaeology Lecture - Prehistoric Colonization of Islands: A Caribbean-Pacific Comparison

**THURSDAY 11/19, 7-8PM**  
Weedon Island Preserve  
1800 Weedon Dr NE  
St Petersburg

For many island societies worldwide, the acquisition

and exchange of prized resources was fundamental to developing and maintaining social, political, and economic relationships. The patchiness of resources such as stone, clay, tempering agents, shell, and animals often led to differential access, which then helped to fuel the rise of social complexity. This presentation by Scott M. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. considers questions of resource acquisition and population movements as mediated by oceanographic and wind conditions. Comparing results from archaeological and other lines of evidence in the Caribbean and Pacific Islands highlights the role of seafaring capabilities as a critical factor in structuring colonization, population dispersals, and inter-island and island-mainland interaction.

For more information go to:  
<http://goo.gl/ZMCeVW>

## Hands-On Workshop - Atlatl Antics!

**SATURDAY 11/21,  
10:30-Noon**  
Moccasin Lake Environmental  
Education Center  
2750 Park Trail Lane  
Clearwater

Join us for a unique Florida archaeology program, where you will learn about hunting technology and how it changed over time. Try a device known as an atlatl that predates the bow and arrow.

For more information go to:  
<http://goo.gl/vdO3kB>

## Hands-On Workshop - Archaeology Works: Fishing

**SATURDAY 12/12, 10-Noon**  
Weedon Island Preserve  
1800 Weedon Dr NE  
St Petersburg

People have been fishing Florida's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters for thousands of years, but how did they catch their meals without the modern gear we use today?

Especially along the Gulf Coast, archaeologists have found tantalizing clues about how Florida's first residents fished these waters. Learn how archaeologists study artifacts linked to fishing like dugout canoes, ancient fishing hooks, and nets then see a thousand year old dugout canoe found at the Weedon Island Preserve for yourself.

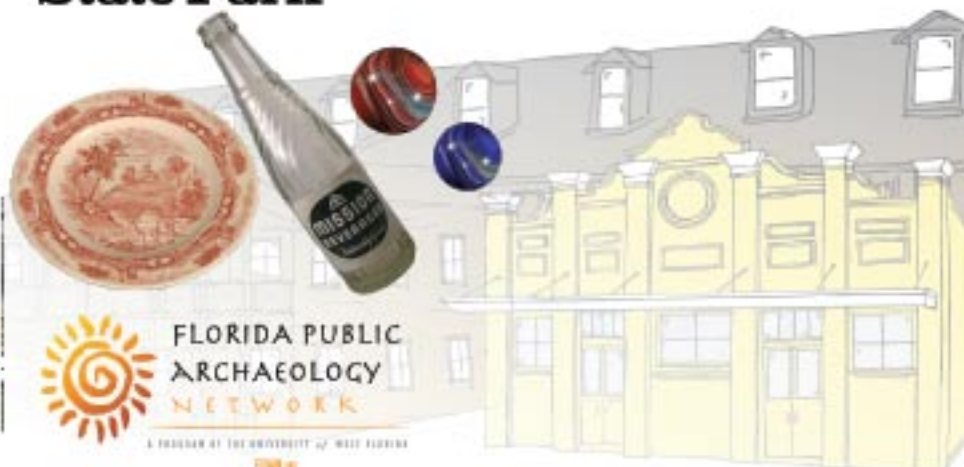
Recommended for all ages.

For more information go to:  
<http://goo.gl/XGe37I>

## Ybor City Beneath the Surface ARCHAEOLOGY DAY!

**Saturday, December 5th  
Noon to 3pm**

**@Ybor City Museum  
State Park**



## FEATURED EVENT! YBOR CITY BENEATH THE SURFACE - ARCHAEOLOGY DAY!

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 5th  
Noon - 3:00 PM

**WHERE:** Ybor City Museum State Park  
1818 E 9th Ave  
Tampa

Discover the history beneath your feet at the Ybor City Museum State Park. We will be celebrating the opening of a new FPAN-created archaeology exhibit in the museum with lots of fun activities for people of all ages. Join us for a game of bolita, displays of artifacts found at the State Park, a walking tour of the archaeology of the block, and much more!

Recommended for all ages.

For more information go to:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1716410245254284/>

## Volunteer Lab at Weedon Island Lets People of All Ages Participate in Archaeology

be installed at the Ybor City Museum State Park. Using artifacts found at the park, along with historic maps and photos, the exhibit will highlight the changes that have occurred, and continue to occur, in Ybor City. We'll also explore how archaeology can inform us about the past even in a dynamic urban environment.

Although they might seem like humble objects, some of the artifacts we uncovered during our work at the park speak volumes about the unique community. Among my favorite that will be incorporated into the

exhibit are two different cough syrup bottles. One is a Chamberlain's Cough Remedy bottle labeled in English. The other is a fragment from a cough syrup bottle labeled in Spanish "Jarabe para la tos" or "cough syrup". Taken together, these two artifacts show the diversity of Ybor City.

Another cool feature of the exhibit is a series of illustrations done by Nigel Rudolph, FPAN Central Region Public Archaeology Coordinator, that shows how the buildings on the block changed through time based on old maps. These drawings



ABOVE: Archaeology students from USF helped with the survey of the State Park in 2012.

## "Re-Placing" Fort Brooke at the Tampa Bay History Center in February 2016

By: Becky O'Sullivan

FPAN West Central has an exciting new exhibit in the works with the Tampa Bay History Center all about the most important archaeological site in the city of Tampa: Fort Brooke. This Seminole War era fort shaped the landscape and development of the city of Tampa, but most people are unaware of this important part of Tampa's past. The exhibit, titled

"Re-Placing Fort Brooke", will focus on using old maps in the collections of the Tampa Bay History Center to relocate or "re-place" this fort on Tampa's modern landscape. In addition, it will highlight the archaeology that has been done at this site in the past and show that although the buildings of the fort might be gone, its archaeological remains are still a part of Tampa's downtown landscape.



ABOVE: Illustrations of the block where the Ybor City Museum State Park now sits, in 1889 (top) and 1931 (bottom) based on Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. Illustrations by Nigel Rudolph.

help to give a sense of the rapid changes that went on in Ybor City, both in the past and more recently.

We hope to see you out at the Ybor City Museum State Park on Saturday,

December 5th for our public archaeology day celebration and exhibit opening. But if you can't make the event, swing on by the museum some other time to see this wonderful slice of Ybor City, and Tampa, history!



ABOVE: A view of Fort Brooke in 1837.

# From the Public Archaeology Trenches: Talking about Prehistoric Pottery Decorations

By: Kassie Kemp

How do you get people to look at a pottery sherd and see something other than a chunk of clay? How do you help the public see that even from a small broken piece of pottery, we can learn about the people of the past? These are issues that I often face when trying to help the public understand that archaeology isn't just about the artifacts, it's about the people who made them. A good way to do this is by giving people something to interact with that is familiar to them and that they can relate to. How do you make prehistoric pottery decorations relatable? Check out the instructions below for an easy to create activity.

## What You'll Need:

- Play-doh
- Bamboo skewers
- Tools to decorate (scallop shell, twine, woven fabric, and balsa wood or a potato to make stamps)

1. Take a piece of play-doh and roll it into a ball. Then press this down into a flat circle. Smooth the surface so that the decoration you create is easily visible. Repeat these steps until you have at least 6 discs to decorate.

2. Decorate each disc with a different tool, you can even use your fingers to pinch the play-doh surface on one disc. You can draw whatever designs you like but making the designs similar to real prehistoric pottery works best for the activity. You can find some examples at this link: <https://goo.gl/jnH5P6>



ABOVE: Examples of the tools we use when doing this activity. Stamps can be carved from soft wood or even a potato.

## Pottery Decoration Activity Tips:

- Have the different tools used to decorate on a table for your audience to see. Hold up a disc and see if they can guess which tool was used to decorate it. Once they guess it correctly, give them the name of the decoration type (i.e. incised, punctated, check stamped) and explain how it was done.
- While going through the activity, explain what tools the Native Americans would have used to decorate their pottery. For incised pottery, they may have used a sharpened stick, bone, shell, or animal tooth instead of a bamboo skewer bought at the grocery store. For punctated pottery, they could have used sticks and bones but also reeds. For shell stamped pottery, different shells make different designs as do different parts of the shells. This creates a lot of different variations! Instead

of using potatoes to make stamps, Native Americans would carve designs into wooden paddles.

- For the cord marked design, you can say something about how they had to make most of these materi-

als by hand. People could not just buy cord or rope at a store in the past, they had to make the cord first. So when we find cord marked pottery we can actually tell which way a person twisted the rope when they made it. Some people have even suggested this shows if a person was left or right handed.

- Save the disc you pinched for last. This one can stump people because none of the tools on the table were used to decorate it. I always like to joke that, on real pottery, pinches are thousand year old Native American fingerprints!
- Once you have gone through all the discs, ask your audience for their thoughts on why people would have decorated pottery in so many different ways. Why didn't they just leave them plain? Why not decorate them only one way? You will get a variety of answers but the takeaway is that we don't know for sure why, but we do know that Native Americans did this for a number of reasons, (Continued on pg. 5)



ABOVE: For a punctated design, use the blunt end of the skewer to make dots. You can also use different sized blunt objects (like the eraser on a pencil) to make larger, bolder dots.

RIGHT: To make an incised design, use the sharp end of a bamboo skewer.





LEFT: Use your fingers to pinch a design into one of the discs as well.

similar to the reasons we decorate things today, including:

- o To make them pretty
- o To represent something that is important to them
- o To help the pot stay strong during firing (decorations give the pot more surface area and help spread the heat more evenly during firing which helps reduce cracking)
- o To allow for a better grip

on the finished pot

For more information on prehistoric pottery in Florida, to see examples of real pottery types, or to find images of real sherds to compare to the discs during the activity, go to [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/ceramiclab/galleries/intro/](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/ceramiclab/galleries/intro/) and click through the image galleries. There are many beautiful variations to choose from.



LEFT: A view of the Hillsborough River as it snakes through the Hillsborough River State Park. Note the rocky outcrops that form the famous "river rapids."

Adapted from "Florida Place Names of Indian Origin and Seminole Personal Names" by William A. Read

Thonotosassa is a town to the northeast of Tampa in Hillsborough County, it is also the location of Hillsborough River State Park which is known for its river rapids and rock outcroppings. A lake in the area also bears the

same name. Thonotosassa is thought to come from the Seminole-Creek *lonoto*, meaning "flint", and *sasi*, meaning "is there". A sectional map from 1930 records the area as "Thonotosassa or Lake of Flints". Outcroppings of limestone karst in the area would have been great places to find chert for stone tool manufacture.

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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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