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## **PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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APRIL 2008

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### **THE GEOPHYSICS OF PERSISTENT PLACES: INVESTIGATIONS AT TEOTEPEC IN THE SIERRA DE LOS TUXTLAS, MEXICO**

Recent investigations at the site of Teotepec in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas are exploring Late Classic (AD 800-1000) socio-economic conditions in southern Veracruz, Mexico. A central theme of this research examines the form and function of the site's distinctive architectural configuration. During the 2007 field season, Dr. Victor Thompson and crew initiated a systematic geophysical survey of Teotepec and obtained initial information on the layout, orientation and possible function of the site's central architectural core. These data underscore the importance of Teotepec's role in the broader landscape of the Tuxtlas region and lend insight into the nature of the site as a persistent place. Dr. Thompson will describe the findings of this research and interpret the data relating to this site.

This month's program and our March program both focus on different aspects of sites in Mexico, but both have relevance to our local programs. Remote sensing has been a useful tool at a number of local sites as well as Bourbon Field on Sapelo Island. The methods used in clay and sherd sourcing will hopefully be applied to the clays and sherds found in the Pensacola area.

### **NEWS FROM FPAN PANHANDLE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGIST**

Dr. Della Scott-Ireton, FPAN Public Archaeologist based at the FPAN Center here in Pensacola, Dr. Bill Lees, FPAN Director, and Mary Furlong, Outreach Coordinator, contribute monthly to the newsletter (595-0059 for info).

After the March 1<sup>st</sup> kickoff celebration at FPAN for Florida Archaeology Month, it was one Archaeology Day or lecture or program after another throughout the whole month. Activities were held throughout the Panhandle region and all were well attended. Thanks to all the UWF student volunteers and PAS members who helped and attended as we continue to make people aware of the great archaeology in our area.

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE WORKS ON SLATE OF OFFICERS**

The nominating committee presented a slate of officers and two board members for 2008-2009 at the March 11 membership meeting. After the slate was presented, nominations were requested from the floor and will be requested again just prior to the vote at the April membership meeting. The slate is:

President – John Leroy

Vice President – Martha Ridlehoover

Recording Secretary – Jan Lloyd

Corresponding Secretary – Gene Feicht

Treasurer – Kay Gautier

Board Members – Greg Cook and Barbara Wright

(Board terms of Ken Alderman and Della Scott-Ireton extend to May 09)

### **TERRESTRIAL AND UNDERWATER UPDATES**

The UWF underwater archaeology faculty and students have continued their investigation of the “Brick Wreck,” a vessel likely dating to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century that sank near Emanuel Point with a cargo of bricks. The vessel was found during a magnetometer survey and lies in twelve feet of water and an additional 2-3 feet of mud. Visibility in this area of the bay is zero so it is providing students a good opportunity to work in black water under safe, shallow conditions. We have uncovered a hatch in the vessel’s deck and the bricks were apparently stored inside the hatch. Future work will involve extending the test unit to the side of the vessel to help determine if it was a sailing ship or barge. The diving platform for work on the Emanuel Point II site is being refurbished by the capable staff at UWF’s Marine Services Center and we hope to have it back on site within the next month for continued work on the second Luna vessel for summer/fall 2008.

Dr. Benchley reports there is still no start date for excavations at the Barkley House, but the delay affords the opportunity for UWF summer field school students to participate in these excavations as well as working with remote sensing at Crystal River State Park and more testing on Sapelo Island. Continue to watch for the announcement of volunteer opportunities at the Barkley House site.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT UWF AND FPAN**

**UWF**, BLDG. 13 LAB – Help is needed to rough sort materials from the shovel tests at Bourbon Field. The work is 80% complete. Call Jan for info -474-2087. The lab is open 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Thursday. **FPAN LAB** – open Wednesday and Friday 9 am to 3 pm. Call Mary -595-5524 **ONGOING**

### **EXCAVATIONS WITH UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA**

Continuing excavations at historic St. Stephens, Alabama's territorial capitol from 1817 to 1819, will take place Friday, April 18 through Sunday April 20. The Spanish established a fort at this site on the west bank of the Tombigbee in 1790. In 1799, shortly after the American Revolution, the Spaniards ceded the fort to the Americans. A small town grew up around the fort and a Choctaw trading house was established. After becoming the capital of the Mississippi Territory, the population exploded such that by 1820, over 500 homes and several thousand people occupied St. Stephens. By the time of the Civil War, it was a ghost town. The site of St. Stephens is now an Alabama Historical Park in Washington County. Archaeologists and volunteers have been conducting excavations for several years, exploring the well-preserved remains of this early town. Current excavations are focused on the Globe Hotel and nearby structures. Thousands of artifacts have been excavated giving clues to the nature of the lives of the early American settlers of south Alabama. For more information on the park, available activities, and more about its history, see [http://www.oldststephens.com/visit\\_st\\_stephens.htm](http://www.oldststephens.com/visit_st_stephens.htm)

### **OLD MOBILE EXCAVATIONS:**

For the next four Saturday, USA's field school will be excavating at the site of Old Mobile (1702-1711), and volunteers are welcome to join us. We are excavating units in an area around a large pit suspected to be a clay extraction pit for Fort Louis. We are digging with shovels and trowels, and water screening the dirt. We meet at the Center for Archaeological Studies lab at 8:30 am and travel as a group to the

DuPont plant on Highway 43 in Axis, AL. We need to go through DuPont security and they ask for a list of participants by Thursday of each week. So please let us know if you plan to come. We also need your address and phone number for the DuPont list, if we don't already have it. If you plan to meet us at DuPont, we should be there around by 9:15 am. We will return to the lab at 4:00 pm. Hope you can join us. We will send out weekly emails about the Old Mobile dig. Any questions? Contact Bonnie Gums, 251-460-6562.

### **COMING EVENTS**

April 1, Tues. Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Florida Public Archaeology Network Center, Old L & N Marine Terminal, 207 E. Main Street. Members welcome.

**APRIL 8, Tues. THE GEOPHYSICS OF PERSISTENT PLACES: INVESTIGATIONS AT TEOTEPEC IN THE SIERRA DE LOS TUXTLAS, MEXICO  
DR. VICTOR THOMPSON, UWF ARCHAEOLOGIST**  
(Election of officers for 2008-2009 at this meeting. Come and participate.)  
FPAN CENTER, 207 E. Main Street, Pensacola

May 6, Tues. Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Florida Public Archaeology Network Center, Old L & N Marine Terminal, 207 E. Main Street. Members welcome.

**MAY 13, Tues. CONSERVATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE WOOD FROM POSTS RECOVERED FROM LITTLE SALT SPRINGS, FLORIDA**  
**Christine Maverick, UWF Grad Student**

PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. BOX 13251  
PENSACOLA, FL 32591

### **2008 FAS ANNUAL MEETING – COMPLETE INFORMATION**

It's time to make reservations for the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society, hosted by the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS). The meeting will be held May 2-4, 2008. in Ybor City/ Tampa. Known

as Tampa's Latin Quarter for over a century, Ybor City is an exotic blend of aromas, flavor, sights and sounds. Founded by Vincente Martinez-Ybor as a cigar manufacturing center, Ybor City is one of only two National Historic Landmark Districts in Florida.

The meeting is being planned by many CGCAS members. The following people are heading up organization of this event: Meeting Organizers – Shanna Drwiega and Marcie Connors; Registration Chair – Chris Hardy (1668 Nantucket Ct., Palm Harbor, FL 34683 – the address was incorrect in the FAS newsletter); Program Chair – Bob Austin and Vendor Chair – Dave Burns.

The venue for the meeting will be the L'Unione Italiana (The Italian Club), a completely restored 100-year old building in the heart of Ybor City, served the social and economic needs of the Italian immigrant community at the turn of the century. Parking is free on Saturday for the meeting attendees.

The conference hotel is the Hampton Inn and Suites, 1301 East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, (813-247-6700). To receive the \$119 per night rate, mention the Florida Anthropological Society. The hotel is located 4 blocks from the Italian Club with trolley access to Ybor City attractions and downtown Tampa. The cut-off for group rate was April 2, 2008. Alternate hotels can be found on the FAS web site.

Also at this meeting there will be a “free to the public” program on Gulf Coast Archaeology in an effort to stimulate interest in the Society and also the prehistory of Florida. Dr. Michael Faught, Dr. Brent Weisman and Richard Estabrook will be speakers and afterwards there will be a question and answer period. This session occurs on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12 to 1 PM in the auditorium.

The Stewards of Heritage Awards will be presented in conjunction with the FAS reception on Friday night from 6 to 9 PM at the Ybor City Museum State Park. The presentation will be hosted by the Florida Archaeological Council.

Two activities are available on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Gary Mormino will lead a walking tour of Ybor City and Mike Terrell will speak on the Archaeology at Little Salt Springs at the Florida Aquarium.

Advanced registration is \$45 with late registration of \$55 after April 2. Registration forms are available on the FAS web site.

## **ARCHAEOLOGY INSTITUTE EXCAVATIONS IN VERACRUZ, MEXICO**

In January 2008, Dr. Judy Bense and Krista Eschbach drove a van full of equipment and supplies to Veracruz, Mexico, to begin a six month investigation in areas where settlers of 18<sup>th</sup> century Pensacola may have originated. Krista is running the day to day excavations and Dr. Bense travels to Veracruz once a month to work on reports and see the progress of the excavations.

The project received favorable comments and was approved by INAH, National Institute of Anthropology and History, Mexico's governing body concerning excavations and archaeological sites. The co-Principal Investigator in Mexico is Judith Hernandez-Aranda, senior archaeologist in the state of Veracruz Center of INAH, and one of the few Mexican colonial archaeologists. While a lot of archaeology in Mexico has focused on pre-contact cultures, there is growing interest in post-contact societies. UWF archaeologists are looking for deposits with good context to identify how the individuals might have lived there in order to compare this with the lifestyle they had as members of the colonies in Pensacola as seen through excavations on the 1705 shipwreck, Santa Maria de Galve, Santa Rosa Pensacola and San Miguel Presidios.

Periodic updates are released by Dr. Bense and will be summarized here. They have completed the second month of the project. They have hired two supervisors and four laborers, started field work, presented the project to a host of local officials and made the local Veracruz paper. Archival research is ongoing also.

There are already some tantalizing results from the fieldwork. They are excavating in a very urban environment downtown with businesses lining the streets and residential apartment complexes in the interior of the blocks connected to the streets by alleys. They are digging on private property in back yards, courtyards and through the floors of unused rooms or apartments, of course with the owner's permission in writing. They are using small test units about 3 feet square. During the first three weeks of March, they tested four locations and have found 18<sup>th</sup> century remains at all of them. The intriguing part about the archaeological deposits is that they are deep and thick! In fact, the 18<sup>th</sup> century deposits are 3 feet thick between 3 and 6 feet below the surface. The deposits are characterized by many thin layers of sand alternating with layers of artifacts.

Stay tuned for more exciting information when the lab work begins and those results are available for interpretation.