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## PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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MARCH 2007

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### MARCH 13 MEETING AT FPAN CENTER DOWNTOWN

La Salle's Impact in Texas:

An Overview of the Texas Historical Commission's Archaeological Investigations  
of the *La Belle* Shipwreck, Fort St. Louis  
and Presidio la Bahia

In 1995 the archeology division of the Texas Historical Commission made an incredible discovery in the shallow waters of Matagorda Bay, Texas. Investigating a magnetometer anomaly in the murky waters, underwater archeologists soon uncovered a bronze cannon clad with the insignia of the Comte de Vermandois, and two flying dolphins. Without a doubt they had located the long searched for French ship *La Belle*, sent by King Louis XIV with the famous explorer La Salle in 1684 and later run aground during a storm in 1686. In 1996 the Texas Historical Commission undertook the task of removing the remains of the ship and its cargo from its watery grave and in so doing began one of the most sensational archeological recoveries ever witnessed in the state.

The following year on a nearby South Texas ranch, a ranch foreman discovered the long missing eight iron canons that once belong to the La Salle expedition and had been buried by the Spanish during their first visit to the defunct French settlement. This set the stage for the initiation in 1999, of what would eventually become the longest, continually running archeological field project in the state's history. During the following two and a half years the Texas Historical Commission archeologists worked arduously to reveal the secrets of not only the French settlement of Fort St. Louis, but also the Spanish Presidio La Bahia, that had been constructed directly atop the French settlement some thirty

years later, and of both groups interaction with the local Karakawa Indians. While not holding the glamorous appeal of the *La Belle* shipwreck excavation, the excavations at Fort St. Louis would slowly reveal many amazing details of the life and times of the French settlers, the Spanish soldiers and the Native Americans who once held this piece of wild Texas coastline. Maureen Brown and Jeff Durst, archaeologists with the Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX, will present this month's program.

Join us at 7 PM on Mar. 13 at the **Florida Public Archaeology Network Center** in the old L & N Marine Terminal downtown for the March membership meeting. Parking is available behind the building. This will be our second meeting in the new FPAN Center building. Bring a friend or two.

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

Dr. Della Scott-Ireton, FPAN Public Archaeologist based at the FPAN Center here in Pensacola, and Dr. Bill Lees, FPAN Director, will contribute FPAN information monthly to the PAS newsletter.

Eighth grade students at Ferry Pass Middle School have been working to revitalize the Colonial Archaeological Trail and write an activity booklet for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Their proposal was one of twenty seven (from 500 applicants) funded by a Save Our History grant. The same group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, accompanied by their teacher Gary Horne and Tim Roberts, Public History grad student at UWF, will travel to Washington, D.C., as 1 of 10 groups chosen to compete for a second award of \$10,000.

FPAN archaeologists conducted a Boy Scout merit badge clinic on February 24.

Alvare Design is working on designs for exterior interpretive signage at the FPAN Center for the permanent display of the mooring anchor. The same firm is working on the interior museum design.

If you need to contact Della or Bill or Cheryl Phelps (Office/Grants Manager), the FPAN office is located in the old L & N Marine Terminal, 595-0054.

### **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION UPDATE**

\*\*\* UWF Archaeology Lab - VOLUNTEERS are needed in the building 13 lab to work on artifacts from the Commanding Officers' Compound. The lab is open Monday through Thursday 9 AM until Noon and 1-4 PM for volunteers (No Friday work next semester). Call Jan (lab 474-2087) for more info.

\*\*\*The Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of South Alabama has volunteer opportunities available in the field and in the lab. Bonnie Gums, CAS archaeologist at USA, can be contacted for more information at 251-460-6562.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The nominating committee of Robert Koonce, chair, Elizabeth Benchley and Ken Alderman prepared the following slate for the 2007-2008 officers and board members. Elections are set for April. Other nominations will be taken from the membership at the March and April meetings.

President – John Crane

Vice President – Robert Koonce

Recording Secretary – Jan Lloyd

Corresponding Secretary – Gene Feicht and Elizabeth Benchley

Treasurer – Kay Gautier

Board Members – Ken Alderman and Della Scott-Ireton

Martha Ridlehoover and Greg Cook have 1 year remaining on the board

### **TERRESTRIAL AND UNDERWATER UPDATES**

The underwater team is continuing to investigate two promising targets that have been located near the Emanuel Point shipwreck as weather permit. Greg Cook reports that the target to the east is covered with wire cut bricks with a beginning date just pre-Civil War. The target to the west includes some early Spanish artifacts and looks promising as an earlier wreck. More pleasant weather and warmer water will allow more time for investigations this spring.

Artifacts from excavations at the Commanding Officers Compound last summer are still being processed in the lab at Building 13. With lab workers and volunteers, we hope to complete lab work by late March and have the draft report on the excavations completed in April. We need your help to get this work done.

During the month of June, UWF Field School 2007 excavations will take place in downtown Pensacola at the corner of Main and Reus Streets. Previous excavations at the site located historic and prehistoric deposits. There will be opportunities for PAS and the public to VOLUNTEER with field and lab work as in previous years. During July the field school will move to Sapelo Island on the Georgia Coast. More specifics will be available soon. UWF archaeologists Dr. Victor Thompson and Norma Harris will direct the field school activities this year in these two locations.

## COMING EVENTS

March 6            Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, **Florida Public Archaeology Network Center**,  
Old L & N Marine Terminal, Main Street

MARCH 13            **LA SALLE'S IMPACT IN TEXAS:**  
**An Overview of the Texas Historical Commission's Archaeological Investigations**  
**of the *La Belle* Shipwreck, Fort St. Louis and Presidio la Bahia**  
MAUREEN BROWN and JEFF DURST  
Archaeology Division, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas  
7 PM, Florida Public Archaeology Network Center

April 3            Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, **Florida Public Archaeology Network Center**,  
Old L & N Marine Terminal, Main Street

April 10            *A CONQUERING SPIRIT: Fort Mims and the Redstick War 1813-1814*  
Dr. Greg Waselkov  
Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies  
University of South Alabama

PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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## **STUDENT AWARDS FUND MARCH PRESENTATION**

At the March membership meeting, because of your generous donations, we will present \$400 each to two archaeology students who will be able to continue their research and attend a national conference to make a presentation. The first awards of 2007 will be presented to April Holmes and Brian Adams. Both will use the award for their thesis research and April plans to present a paper at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in the fall.

The \$1600 per year support for the students will require additional support from you. If you have a few extra dollars, any amount is welcome. You don't have to wait until the end of the year to make this tax deductible donation. Thanks from the PAS Board and past and future student recipients!

## **FAS NEWS**

Kay Gautier announced there is a "how to" book on the way from the 2006 FAS meeting organizers to help with our arrangements and plans for the 61st FAS annual meeting 2009 to be held in Pensacola. The book also includes more information about poster and postcard/bookmark planning and production. Cheryl Phelps, office and grants manager of FPAN has already made inquiries with hotels in the area about pricing and available meeting rooms. The city's 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee will be contacted about dates for the city's celebration plans that would conflict with the 2009 FAS meeting so we can set a date soon.

Poster and postcard distribution is going well. Posters and postcards are available at the Archaeology Institute, FPAN headquarters and some will be reserved for distribution at Festival on the Green at the end of March and at the Historic District Open House in June.

Kay Gautier will need a poster chairman and conference chairman to attend the 59<sup>th</sup> FAS annual meeting in Sebring May 11-13. They will travel on Thursday to attend the old Board meeting on Friday afternoon. Gautier will be very busy with FAS membership secretary activities so think about volunteering to help with planning the FAS annual meeting in 2009.

## **FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN AT UWF MARCH 31**

Greg Cook is organizing the archaeology Festival on the Green activities again this year. In addition to the students, couple of PAS volunteers will be needed from 11-1 and 1-3 on Saturday, March 31 to answer questions, sell t-shirts and distribute PAS and FPAN information. Call Greg at 857-6321 to volunteer.

## **MARCH IS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH**

During Florida Archaeology Month, activities throughout the state celebrate our archaeological resources and heritage. This year's theme focuses on dugout canoes in addition to other native and historic watercraft in Florida. With Florida's vast coastline, many rivers and lakes, dugout canoes were important for the transport of goods, people and ideas. Canoes played an important role for hunters and fishers in obtaining food. Nearly 400 dugout canoes have been found throughout Florida.

This year PAS is sponsoring and participating in a number of activities to celebrate the month. On March 10, 20 members of PAS will attend the Exploreum's Pompeii exhibit in Mobile. The membership meeting program on March 13 presented by two archaeologists from Texas will demonstrate the long lasting effects of important excavations in that state. At the Festival on the Green on March 31, PAS members will distribute posters, postcards and other information about archaeology to the public. Join us for some or all of these activities.

## **CEMETERY PRESERVATION WORKSHOP**

The first in a series of workshops will be presented on Saturday, March 24 at the FPAN Center to bring together the people responsible for managing our cemetery resources. Since cemeteries are integral components of communities, the ongoing problems related to management, conservation, vandalism, record keeping, repairs, funding and public interest will be covered in an effort to address the common problems and concerns.

The workshop is open, at no charge, to representatives of area not-for-profit cemeteries and family cemeteries, as well as to the larger for-profit cemeteries. Professionals who provide services to cemeteries are also invited.

Topics for this workshop include documentation, disaster planning and guidelines for cleaning and repair. Sponsors for the workshop are the UWF Archaeology Institute, St. Michael's Cemetery Foundation of Pensacola, Inc., the Pensacola Archaeological Society and the Florida Public Archaeology Network.

## **HERITAGE DAY OPEN HOUSE IN FORT WALTON BEACH**

On Saturday, March 17 (10 to 3), the Fort Walton Beach will sponsor the Heritage Day Open House. The Indian Temple Mound Museum, Camp Walton School House Museum and Garnier Post Office Museum will be open free to the public. Other activities include archaeological exhibits, historic crafts, primitive skills demonstrations, living history interpretation and food vendors.