



PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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MARCH 2008

SOURCING OAXACA POTTERY: DETERMINING THE SOURCES OF CLAY IN THE POTTERY FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Clay deposits (as well as rocks, minerals and ores) from around the world contain the same elements, but in varying amounts. The very small amounts of certain elements can be compared in raw clay and pottery sherds from an archaeological site. If the percentages of particular elements are the same, the raw clay and the sherds are from the same clay deposit. This information can be used to determine whether pottery on an archaeological site was made locally or imported. Our speaker, Mary Thieme, has worked in Oaxaca, Mexico, since 1988 sourcing raw and prepared clay and sherds of known composition. The elemental analysis of the clay and sherds was done using Instrumental Nuclear Activation Analysis at the University of Missouri Research Reactor. Subsequently, she worked with archaeological materials in a Formative period (1500 BC to 300 AD) study of 475 sherds from 19 sites throughout Oaxaca and compared them to samples from 4 contemporary pottery-producing towns. Most recently she has been working with ceramic materials from a Post Classic (900 AD to 1520 AD) urban site in the Mixteca Alta. Don't worry, we're not going to explain the physics and chemistry involved in the testing, but we are certainly going to look at the results and what they indicate about the sources of pottery in these locations. Archaeologists at UWF are interested in using similar technology to identify the source of some of the historic and prehistoric ceramics found on sites around the Pensacola area. Were they made locally or imported? Join us Tuesday at 7 for this interesting program

DR. DAVID HURST THOMAS LECTURE MAR. 11, 4 PM, UWF

The Anthropology Colloquium series is pleased to announce a lecture by American Museum of Natural History archaeologist, Dr. David Hurst Thomas. Dr. Thomas has studied missions throughout the United States and will present a very different picture of the mission system and the day to day activities than we may have visualized. He is an informative speaker and you should not miss this opportunity. The Florida system included missions here in Pensacola although we don't know much about them yet. Probably the most well known mission in our area is Mission San Luis in Tallahassee. The lecture is at 4 PM on Tuesday, March 11 in building 13, room 230 (the lecture room upstairs from the lab). **Attend this lecture, stop somewhere for dinner and join us at 7 PM for the regular PAS monthly membership meeting at the FPAN Center. Both are free and open to the public.

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).

There are many exciting things happening with FPAN through the entire state. The new Central Region Center has been established at the Crystal River Archaeological Park, which preserves and interprets an incredible mound complex. This new center is hosted by the University of South Florida. Rich Estabrook, who helped establish the West Central Region Center in Tampa (also hosted by USF), has moved to the Crystal River site. Jeff Moates, a graduate of UWF, has been selected to fill Estabrook's position in Tampa.

The FPAN Board of Directors evaluated proposals from three Fort Myers area institutions to host the Southwest Region Center. This center was previously hosted by the Florida Museum of Natural History at the Randell Research Center on Pine Island. The new center will be hosted by the Mound House Museum.

The March 1st kickoff celebration at FPAN for Florida Archaeology Month was a great success. Visitors enjoyed sorting artifacts in the lab, going on tours, having their artifacts identified and playing in the children's activity area. Probably the biggest success of the day was the atlatl throwing station. Visitors of all ages

practiced their spear throwing skills at the station. Check the website (www.flpublicarchaeology.org) for more information or call Mary (850-595-0050 ex 103) if you have questions or are interested in volunteering for any of the Florida Archaeology Month activities.

STUDENT AWARDS FUND CHECKS AWARDED MARCH 11

The March Student Awards Fund recipients are Wayne Abrahamson and Kendra Kennedy. They will receive \$400 each for thesis research on March 11.

Wayne will visit the Shelburne Maritime Museum in Vermont to study a vessel like the Seminole wreck, an Eastern side-wheel steamer that ended up in the Blackwater River after serving previously in New York. Wayne will be able to gather first hand information about the type of vessel he is writing about in his thesis. There is only one of these vessels available for study and it is located at this museum.

Kendra has planned a trip to London to study at the British National Archives as she continues her research into the maritime landscape of British Pensacola. She has been awarded a grant of \$1000 from UWF that will cover her flight and some expenses. The grant from PAS will allow her to stay an extra week and double her research time. Congratulations to both of these students.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE WORKS ON SLATE OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee is drawing up a slate of officers and two board members for 2008-2009 that will be presented at the March 11 membership meeting. After the slate is presented, nominations will be taken from the floor at that meeting and again just prior to the vote at the April membership meeting. Please contact a Board member if you are interested in joining the Board to plan the PAS yearly activities.

TERRESTRIAL AND UNDERWATER UPDATES

The UWF crew continues to survey targets in Pensacola Bay. Investigations continue on the “Brick Wreck” to determine more about the vessel and cargo. There is a possibility that the wreck is one of several barges loaded with bricks that sank during the Civil War and mentioned on a plaque at the chimney on Scenic Highway.

Dr. Benchley is working on a budget for the excavations at the Barkley House. After the budget is approved, archaeologists will excavate the two areas

where building foundations will be constructed. Watch for more information on when the excavations will begin and volunteer opportunities.

Norine Carroll has accepted the position of Collections Manager at the Archaeology Institute and she will start in July or August. The Historic Preservation archaeologist candidates are concluding interviews this week and an announcement will be made soon about the results of that search.

COMING EVENTS

**MARCH IS FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH
SEE INSERT IN FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER FOR MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES
THE NEW T-SHIRTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THESE ACTIVITIES**

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

**MAR. 11, Tues. SOURCING OAXACA POTTERY: DETERMINING THE SOURCES
OF CLAY IN THE POTTERY FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
MARY THIEME
Panama City, Florida
7 PM, FPAN CENTER, 207 E. MAIN STREET**

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 RHYTHMS OF SPACE-TIME AND THE MAKING OF
MONUMENTS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES
Dr. Victor Thompson, UWF**

PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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2008 FAS ANNUAL MEETING – COMPLETE INFORMATION

It's time to make reservations for the 60th 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 7th 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. Cut-off for group rate is 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 3rd 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 4th. 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.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY 2008 FAS BOARD MEETING

Kay Gautier, PAS treasurer and FAS representative, attended the FAS board meeting in St. Augustine on Feb. 9, 2008. She made the following report at the PAS board meeting on March 4, 2008.

Florida Archaeology Month Posters and postcards were distributed to chapter representatives during a reception hosted by the St. Augustine FPAN Center on the Flagler College campus.

A conditional charter to organize a chapter was granted to Jacksonville to replace the NEFAS which is defunct.

Chapter Awards must be submitted to Patty Flynn by March 15.

CGCAS is ready to host the 2008 Annual FAS meeting May 2-3 in Tampa. In subsequent years, chapters are urged to avoid the first weekend in May so we won't conflict with the State History Fair where many of the FAS participants are usually judges.

FAS now has 523 members and about 100 previous members have been placed on the inactive list for not paying dues for 2008.

Gautier reported PAS progress on the design for the 2009 Florida Archaeology Month poster. We will use the Eric Hinote image and add other information about Spanish exploration of Florida and the Emanuel Point II shipwreck / artifacts on the back.

A revised version of the *Florida Archaeology* booklet is in preparation in Pensacola under the direction of Della Scott-Ireton.

PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GRANT

Secretary of State Kurt Browning announced that the Public Lands Archaeology Program in the Bureau of Archaeological Research has been awarded a National Geographic Society research grant of \$19,800 to examine the Paleoindian component of the Wakulla Springs Lodge site near Tallahassee. The Wakulla Springs Lodge site was discovered by the late Florida State Archaeologist, Calvin

Jones. This site is the only known archaeological site that has yielded a distinctive type of artifact assemblage in undisturbed context that likely dates to the first appearance of humans in Florida. This grant will enable senior archaeologist Jim Dunbar and his team of archaeologists and other research partners to investigate this important site with technology which was not available when the site was discovered in 1994.

FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH ACTIVITIES

MARCH 1, SAT. – KICKOFF CELEBRATION, 10 AM TO 2 PM, FPAN CENTER, PENSACOLA, 207 EAST MAIN STREET; Bearheart Native Paths Museum, guided tours of T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum, Colonial Archaeological Trail, artifact identification, hands on activities for children and adults, FREE archaeology posters

MARCH 4, TUES. – 7 PM – LECTURE - Tugging on the Past: The Site Recording and Interpretation of the USS Narcissus. FPAN Center, PENSACOLA.

MARCH 8, SAT. – ARCHAEOLOGY DAY at Northwest Florida Heritage Museum, VALPARAISO, 10 am to 2 pm., Artifact identification by archaeologists.

MARCH 8, SAT. – ARCHAEOLOGY DAY at Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site, MILTON, 10 am to 2 pm, Artifact identification by archaeologists.

MARCH 11, TUES. – Pensacola Archaeological Society monthly membership meeting. LECTURE, 7 PM, FPAN Center, PENSACOLA. Open to the public. Speaker: Mary Thieme, Determining the Source of Clay in Pottery from Archaeological Sites in Oaxaca, Mexico.

MARCH 13, THURS.-12 PM, LECTURE AT LUNCH– Frauds, Myths and Archaeological Sciences, Indian Temple Mound Museum, FT. WALTON BEACH.

MARCH 15, SAT. – ARCHAEOLOGY DAY at T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, PORT ST. JOE, 10 am to 2 pm, Artifact identification by archaeologists.

MARCH 15, SAT. – OPEN HOUSE, HERITAGE and ARCHAEOLOGY DAY, City of Ft. Walton Beach Heritage Park and Culture Center, FT. WALTON BEACH.

MARCH 16, SUN., 1 – 4 PM, SPECIAL EXHIBIT featuring artifacts from the 19th century lumber industry, Arcadia Mill Archaeological Site, MILTON.

MARCH 18, TUES. – 7 PM, LECTURE – Exploring the Emanuel Point II: A 16th Century Spanish Shipwreck, FPAN Center, PENSACOLA

MARCH 21, FRI. – 6:30 PM, LECTURE- From Prehistory to Preservation: The Prehistoric Archaeology of Northwest Florida, Bay County Library at Gulf Coast Community College, PANAMA CITY.

MARCH 22, SAT. – ARCHAEOLOGY DAY at Bay County Library at Gulf Coast Community College, PANAMA CITY. 10 am to 2 pm, Artifact identification by archaeologists

MARCH 25, TUES. – 7 PM, LECTURE – There's a Battlefield in Your Backyard? A Study of Fort George and the Siege of Pensacola Under the Modern Landscape, FPAN Center, PENSACOLA.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION UPDATE

All lab opportunities require **NO previous experience**. Join us when you can to see the artifacts from Pensacola's past that are being recovered during excavations in our area.

*****FPAN lab** - Volunteers are needed to help rough sort artifacts from the downtown projects. Lab work occurs from 9:30 to 3:30 on WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY at the FPAN Center downtown. For more info about the lab, call Mary Furlong at 595-0050 EX 103.

*** **UWF Archaeology Lab** - VOLUNTEERS are needed in the building 13 lab to work on artifacts from the field school excavations. The lab is open Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 3 pm. Call Jan (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, can be contacted for more information at 251-460-6562.