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## PENSACOLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

EDITOR JAN LLOYD 453-1660

[jall888@earthlink.net](mailto:jall888@earthlink.net)

MAY 2005

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### 1733 PLATE FLEET SHIPWRECKS

During the same time that Santa Rosa Pensacola was established by the Spanish on Santa Rosa Island, many fleets were traveling from Spain to the New World and back again. Spain was attempting to establish a trade monopoly with her colonies and keep them dependent on her. The Spanish hoped to force the colonists to buy the high priced imports only from the mother country and all foreigners were excluded from direct trade with the colonies. Many ships were lost during these crossings from storms and attacks by ships of other countries. Such was the case of the 1733 *flota*, a group of ships filled with selected trade items returning to Spain from Mexico. These items included gold, silver, precious stones, hides, exotic woods, sugar, chocolate, coffee, dyes, tobacco and pearls from the New World as well as items from the Far East which were brought to Mexico's west coast. After the rendezvous in Havana for the homeward voyage, the fleet of 23 ships departed for Spain. Two days out the fleet was caught by a hurricane and wrecked along the Florida Keys from Marathon to Key Biscayne. At least 15 of the ships that could not be refloated were burned to the waterline. Salvage operations were conducted for two months and much of the treasure was recovered. A lot of the other cargo was ruined by the salt water and was not recovered. Since their discovery in the 1940s, at least 12 of the ships have been relocated and at least 7 have been salvaged by private corporations under the Florida Dept of State. State supervision has stressed the retrieval of all artifacts, to ensure a more representative sample of each ship's contents.

Jason Raupp, the newest PAS Board member, UWF graduate and dive safety officer at UWF, visited the 1733 Plate Fleet shipwrecks last year and will

bring us a first hand view of their condition and what efforts are underway to preserve them. Join us May 10 for the program about these interesting activities.

### **ANNUAL BANQUET SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 14**

The annual banquet this year will be held at 6 PM at Trinity Presbyterian Church, our monthly meeting location. It will be buffet style and catered by Rich's Bar-B-Q. The cost this year will be \$10 per person and will include pork and chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, dessert and drink. The reservation slip is available as the insert in this newsletter. Mark your calendar and make your reservations now. Plan to join us for an evening of fellowship, awards, information and good food. Dr. Judy Bense and Dr. John Bratten will present a summary of the past year and plans for the future. Reservations are due by June 10 for the June 14 event.

### **2005-2006 OFFICERS**

The nominating committee headed by Dr. Elizabeth Benchley presented the slate of officers for the new year at the March membership meeting and the vote was made by the membership at the April meeting. The slate was accepted without changes. The officers for the new year are:

President – John Crane

Vice President – Ken Alderman

Recording Secretary – Jan Lloyd

Corresponding Secretary – Connie Franklin

Treasurer – Kay Gautier

Board Members – Gene Feicht and Gail Leroy

Martha Ridlehoover and Jason Raupp have 1 more year of their terms.

Elizabeth Benchley will fill the position of Ex-Officio (she preceded John Crane as president).

We need new ideas for programs and group trips. We need individuals willing to head up group trips on a one time basis. Let one of the board members know if you are willing to participate. Suggestions for programs are always welcome.

### **DUES ARE DUE NOW**

The new PAS year begins May 1, 2005, and dues are due now. Dues will remain the same for this new year and are as follows: Individual - \$15, Family - \$20, Student - \$6, Life - \$200. Don't forget - your **donations for the Student Awards fund** are always welcome and important and may be included.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

\*\*\* **FIELD LAB WORK** – Field school begins May 9 downtown behind the T.T. Wentworth Museum. Beginning MAY 16, volunteers can be used to rough sort artifacts being recovered on site. (see more info in this newsletter.) Contact Mary Furlong after May 9 at 516-1932 or 474-3015 to volunteer.

\*\*\***LAB WORK** – Building 13 Lab –work on artifacts from Santa Rosa Pensacola. No experience necessary. Monday – Friday 9 to 4. For more information call Jan at 474-2087 or just show up! This work will continue through the summer.

\*\*\***ARCADIA MILL CLEAN UP**- every Saturday during May, volunteers are needed to clean up debris and help rebuild the boardwalk at Arcadia Mill. Volunteers should r call Mark Martinkovic at 626-3084.

\*\*\***MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC PENSACOLA VILLAGE OPEN HOUSE**. June 4. Museums and village are open free of charge. PAS volunteers will be at various locations selling T-shirts and handing out information. Call the Archaeology Institute or sign up at the meeting to volunteer for a shift. 474-3015

## **FAS MEETINGS IN GAINESVILLE, MAY 2005**

The 2005 Florida Anthropological Society meeting will be held May 13-15 in Gainesville at the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH). FAS events and FAC (Florida Archaeological Council) board meeting will begin on Friday, May 13. There will be a reception Friday night at the FLMNH's gallery (Powell Hall). Quite a number of UWF grad students and professors are presenting paper. Paper presentations and the banquet, bookroom and vendors will be at the Hilton Hotel across the street on Saturday, May 14. The keynote speaker at the banquet will be Dr. Kathleen Deagan of the FLMNH. More information will be available on the FAS web site as information is updated: [www.fasweb.org](http://www.fasweb.org)

## **T SHIRT NEWS**

T shirts for the new field season are printed and look great The new T shirts have the PAS logo on the frontand the 1765 painting of the downtown Pensacola waterfront on the back. Colors will be gold and sand (pockets) and Carolina blue and Serene green (no pocket). The price is only \$10 each. The new shirts will be available at the May meeting and the lab in Building 13. All profits benefit the Student Awards Fund.

## COMING EVENTS

- May 3 Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Archaeology Institute, University of West Florida  
**May 10** Regular Meeting, 7 PM, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Choir Room  
**SHIPWRECK OF THE 1733 PLATE FLEET**  
**JASON RAUPP**  
UWF Maritime Archaeologist and Dive Safety Officer
- May 13-15 FAS GENERAL MEETING, Gainesville
- May Saturdays Arcadia Mill Clean up (See Volunteer Opportunities, page 3)
- June 4 MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC PENSACOLA VILLAGE OPEN HOUSE. (See Volunteer Opportunities, page 3)
- June 7 Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Archaeology Institute, University of West Florida
- June 14 PAS ANNUAL BANQUET, Trinity Presbyterian Church  
6 PM, Church Parlor (Reservations due by June 10, see insert)  
**A LOOK AT THE PAST YEAR AND AT THE FUTURE**  
**DR. JUDY BENSE AND DR. JOHN BRATTEN**

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

## PAS ANNUAL BANQUET RESERVATIONS

The annual PAS banquet will be held June 14, 2005, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The banquet will be catered by Rich's Bar-B-Q and will include chicken and pork bar-b-q, baked beans, cole slaw, banana pudding and iced tea for \$10 per person. Serving will be buffet style. Please make your **reservations by June 10** and mail the payment to the PAS post office box or turn it in at the May meeting. It is also time to renew your membership for the 2005-2006 year. This can be done at the same time AND with the same check as the banquet reservations. Also don't forget your contributions for the Student Awards Fund. You don't have to wait until December to make these tax deductible contributions.

NUMBER OF BANQUET RESERVATIONS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES \_\_\_\_\_  
(individual \$15, family \$20, student \$6, life \$200)

CONTRIBUTION TO STUDENT AWARDS FUND \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

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## FIELD LAB VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Field school 2005 will begin on May 9 and end on August 5. Excavations will be held downtown behind the T. T. Wentworth Museum in the area of the Colonial Archaeological Trail exhibit.

### WHEN:

PAS **Volunteers** will be **needed** to rough sort and screen artifacts recovered during the excavations **beginning May 16**. A tent will serve as the field lab and picnic area for lunch.

### LAB HOURS:

Volunteers will work from 9 am til 3 pm Monday through Thursday and til 2 pm on Fridays (crew will clean equipment after 2 pm on Fridays).

### ORIENTATION:

Orientation for students and volunteers will be held **May 9 at 9 am at the Bowden Building** at 120 Church Street. Bring a lunch and plan to learn a lot about the site and the history and archaeology of the area. A site tour will follow the presentations.

## UWF 2005 SUMMER FIELD SCHOOL INFORMATION

This summer UWF is offering terrestrial and combined terrestrial-nautical field schools which will run concurrently. Volunteers are welcome at the terrestrial field school which will be located behind the T.T. Wentworth museum. There will not be room for volunteers on the boats during the nautical work because of the large number of nautical field school students.

The terrestrial excavations will be in the area of the Commanding Officers' Compound exhibit that is part of the Colonial Archaeological Trail. This area was first excavated in 1988 and again in 1993 as part of an effort to educate and involve citizens and visitors in Pensacola with the significant archaeological remains of the colonial period ca. 1752 – 1821. Several sites were exposed and interpreted so they would be visible to the public.

During the excavations in 1988-1989, thirty features (post holes, pits, brick piers) were located. Of these 23 were identified as being associated with the colonial occupation of Pensacola. Artifacts recovered include Mexican ceramics (El Morro coarse earthenware, olive jar and majolicas), French faience, Chinese porcelain, delft, salt glazed stoneware, British slipware and creamware, dark olive green bottle fragments, a kettle hook, a bone knife handle, knife blade fragments, hand wrought nails, gunflints, buckles of pewter, copper and brass, buttons of metal and bone, a copper aglet (lace tip), cuff links, bone comb, many glass beads and clay pipes. Excavations this year will try to locate first Spanish period foundations or perhaps a well under the British foundations.

Excavations will continue this year on the Forests and Lakes project. This work on private property has located over a hundred prehistoric as well as historic sites and excavations are going to take place at several of these.

The nautical activities will involve checking some of the sites located during the magnetometer survey during the fall and winter. Other work will involve checking on the effects of Hurricane Ivan on known shipwrecks that have been excavated (Santa Rosa Island wreck, for example). The crews will also try to locate the stern of the Santa Rosa Island wreck which was not located during the previous work.

Join the crew downtown to help with rough sorting and screening from 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Thursday (ends at 2 on Friday for equipment clean up). The big tent will serve as the field lab and picnic area for lunch. See you there. See info under volunteer opportunities on page 3.