Estuary Exploration Summer Camp 2015

By: Nigel Rudolph

Estuary Exploration Summer Camp 2015 was a success despite the inclement weather during both sessions. Rain stopped long enough for the kids to have a great time during the outdoor camp activities. This year, FPAN worked closely with other agencies at Crystal River Preserve State Park to provide campers with a well-rounded, science-based day camp.

Campers enjoyed marsh walks with Park Rangers, eco-boat rides with Florida Coastal Office staff, and lessons on historic boats with Crystal River Boat Builders. FPAN debuted a couple of new camp activities. Shoebox Sifting for Technology, a smaller scale, shoe-box sized version of the Sifting Program that allows campers to excavate in a controlled environment using a sorting guide to help Junior Archaeologists identify artifacts.

Timucuan Pyro-technology, an activity that introduces campers to the Timucuan culture, focused on ways that local prehistoric people used fire to meet their daily needs. A hands-on experiment provided a bang when we explored how prehistoric people cooked food prior to the advent of pottery. The New World/Old World activity illustrates how many of the cultural associations we have with different foods and animals are not always accurate.

The new activities complemented camp favorites, such as atlatls and the archaeo-olympics, by broadening the camper’s understanding of archaeology as both historic and prehistoric. We had many returning campers from last summer and we’re looking forward to next year!
Summer Library Programs 2015
By: Nigel Rudolph

As active as the summer has already been for archaeology outreach, FPAN Central is in the midst of our summer library programming. We have been trekking throughout the region presenting to groups of all sizes at local library branches.

Each year, the State of Florida Division of Libraries develops themes for their youth summer reading programs. This year for the elementary school-aged kids, the theme is “Every Hero Has a Story”. Figuring out how to weave archaeology into a theme focused on the individual hero—without simply outfitting an archaeologist in a cape and trowel-emblazoned bodysuit—took some thought. We think that archaeologists are detectives who look back in time through ancient clues or artifacts to figure out how people lived long ago. We examine the clues left behind within a small excavation unit, and surmise what those clues can tell us, then expand our vision to a larger map of an entire archaeological site. This will give us a broader perspective of prehistoric life and how all the individual clues we find in small units can be assembled to become a window into the past. I might still wear a cape. Check the events listing at http://fpan.us/crc/ for more info on upcoming library dates in the Central Region.

Archaeology Works!
By: Nigel Rudolph and Paula Specht

We will be presenting a couple of Archaeology Works programs this summer and into fall at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. Archaeology Works are hands-on introduction to the many different facets of Florida Archaeology. We focus on a particular theme and participants explore that theme firsthand with specialized activities created to help clear the academic stigma often associated with archaeology. The programs are a short two hours and are open to folks of all ages. We will be closing out the summer outreach with Archaeology Works – Fishing! September 27th from 2 – 4PM at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.

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? Along the Gulf Coast, archaeologists have found tantalizing clues about how Florida’s first residents fished these waters. During FPAN’s Archaeology Works – Fishing program, participants will learn how archaeologists study artifacts linked to fishing like dugout canoes, ancient fishing hooks, and nets. Participants will get a chance view a thousand year old dugout canoe in the South Florida People and Environments exhibit at the Florida Museum of Natural History. (cont. page 4)
With History Bike Gainesville’s inaugural ride behind us, plans have already started on the next ride, which will follow the timeline of Gainesville’s early years. The first ride focused on the very early history of the region through Gainesville’s initial formation and settlement as seen via rivers and railroads. Without those key elements available, the city of Gainesville might not have ever been on the map.

History Bike Gainesville (HBG) is based on an existing program in Tampa – History Bike Tampa (HBT). HBT began in 2013 as a way of fostering community interest in Tampa’s history. HBT’s rides are monthly tours throughout the Tampa Bay area focusing on particular neighborhoods or themes for each ride. After being given the blessing from the HBT folks, we started History Bike Gainesville with the same general idea—to create a fun way for folks to come together around a shared interest in bicycles, history, and a curiosity to learn a bit more about the town we live in.

Our inaugural ride along the Gainesville – Hawthorne Trail had a theme of exploring Gainesville’s origins through rivers and railroads. It was quite convenient that much of the early history of the area, going back as far as the 1600s, is situated along and adjacent to this paved trail. The land beneath Gainesville is the watershed for the creeks that feed Payne’s Prairie and grew the lush savannah grasses the Spanish, and later Seminole, cattle ranchers relied so heavily on to feed their livestock. That water then drains back underground through Alachua Sink into the aquifer. It bubbles up to the surface again at Boulware Springs where it was delivered to a young and growing community.

We stopped at four locations, shared stories of several historic events, and discussed important figures that helped create the community. The tour’s theme of water as an important element in the story of Gainesville’s creation was illustrated clearly when a thunderstorm rolled across Payne’s Prairie as I was presenting about Hacienda de la Chua, the colonial Spanish cattle ranch. Despite the rain, the tour continued, and we moved from LaChua to Boulware Springs. Quite drenched, we rode to Historic Evergreen Cemetery where Dr. Jimi Brown, from Evergreen Cemetery Association, greeted us with cold water and discussed the lives of a few of Gainesville’s founding residents. Our ride ended where it began, at First Magnitude Brewery—a fitting location for its close proximity to the Gainesville – Hawthorne Trail, and for its name, which references the multiple first magnitude springs throughout North Central Florida.

As we move forward with more History Bike Gainesville tours, we plan to host one quarterly in different areas of town focused on different themes. Stay tuned to social media for announcements of upcoming HBG tours.

www.facebook.com/historybikegainesville

HBG @ Historic Evergreen Cemetery
Have you ever wondered how an archaeologist can tell an individual’s age at death? How about whether that person had good nutritional health? Where in society did this individual rank? Did they have children? The Florida Public Archaeology Network presents the “Bones and Mortuary Archaeology” workshop, which will answer these questions and much more.

This workshop will focus on the information archaeologists can uncover from skeletal remains and the context of the burial. The remains themselves can shed light on many different aspects of an individual’s life, including age, sex, ethnicity, nutritional health, and any skeletal pathology. The context of the burial can provide clues that help archaeologists get an idea of how that individual lived as well as how they were perceived by the rest of the community.

*Archaeology Works: Bones!  
October 11, 2015 2 - 4PM at Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.

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**Etna Turpentine Camp**

*By: Nigel Rudolph*

The Historic Etna Turpentine Camp on the edge of the Withlacoochee State Forest, east of Homosassa, has once again made the news. This site is the subject of a preservation battle in the face of a proposed turnpike extension. I had the opportunity to sit in on a meeting with FDOT officials, archaeologists, and the public about the site, concerning Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 of the NHPA sets forth the requirement that federally funded or permitted projects must consider the effects of the project on historic properties. This meeting provided the public with a better understanding of how Section 106 might affect the roadway project and acted as a forum for all the parties involved to voice their opinions.

The time between the Civil War and World War 2 was the height of the turpentine industry in Florida. The artifacts scattered at sites all over the state, and in places like Etna, provide a small window into this fascinating and controversial history. What the old bricks, barrel straps, Herty cups, and other artifacts do not reflect, is the toll taken on the people who labored at camps like Etna. The laborers, primarily African-American, and often victims of severe judicial punishments for menial crimes or no crimes at all, suffered at these camps under virtually slave-like conditions. As many of these sites were temporary and not permanent work camps, the physical artifacts are often rare. It’s important to take part in efforts to find and protect these sites, like Etna, so that this important chapter in Florida’s history is not forgotten.

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Join the Crystal River State Parks, the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), the Friends of Crystal River State Parks, and the Florida Coastal Offices to assist in the preservation of the natural and cultural resources of the region. Please contact Nigel Rudolph at snrudolph@usf.edu to become a FPAN volunteer.
Volunteer Coordinator Joins Crystal River Preserve State Parks

Marla Chancey is one of the newer additions to the Crystal River Preserve State Parks team. Since 2004, the position of volunteer coordinator was a shared responsibility of park rangers and administrative staff. With an understanding of the value of volunteerism, Park Manager John Lakich in April of this year was able to secure a dedicated full time staff member to recruit, train and supervise volunteers.

Born in Bradenton, she spent summer vacations with her father on the Homosassa River in the mid 1970s. “Citrus County has always felt like home to me,” she says. “So when I graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Corporate Communications degree in 1991, I packed my car and headed back to paradise.”

Marla is a returning state park employee. Her career with the park service began in 1999 at the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park where she worked with a dedicated group of more than 250 volunteers. In 2008, she left the park service to join the world of Florida tourism where she served as the Director of the Citrus County Visitors and Conventions Bureau and later as the marketing coordinator for the office of tourism in Pasco County.

When asked why she chose to return to state parks, Chancey stated: “I missed working under the park service mission and philosophy of providing resource-based recreation while preserving interpreting and restoring Florida’s natural and cultural resources.”

Chancey also enjoys the partnerships that exist at the Preserve. “This place is pretty unique, we have an administrative office in an old yacht club next to a world renowned Archeological site with established and successful collaborative partnerships. Having FPAN, DEP’s Florida Coastal office, Gulf Archaeology Research Institute, working all out of one area allows for teamwork and efficiencies that I haven’t seen happen elsewhere.”

Digging Up Dishes!
Recipes from the Past

Scallop season is in full effect here along the Nature Coast and preparing your bounty of shellfish is way easier than it seems. Below is great and minimal recipe that allows the scallops all the attention.

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 teaspoons olive oil per batch
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into chunks
- ¼ cup chives
- pinch cayenne pepper
- pinch sea salt

**PREPARATION**
Depending on your scallop haul, it’s best to cook in batches to prevent over crowding the pan. Heat oil over medium heat. Add scallops leaving plenty of room between each one to prevent sticking to each other. Let them sit and cook for about 5 min or until nice and caramelized on the bottom. When thoroughly browned, loosen with a spatula and add a tablespoon of butter, chives, a pinch of salt and cayenne. Continue to baste scallops with melted butter until they are no longer translucent. Remove from pan, repeat with another batch.