Proposed ‘Citizen Archaeology’ Permit

House Bill 803 and Senate Bill: 1054 Historic and Archaeological Artifacts

By: Jeff Moates. Director FPAN Central and West Central Regions

We continue to watch closely the process of these companion Bills as they make way through their respective houses in the Florida legislature. Back in December, FPAN dedicated space in the frequently asked questions section of our website to the issues surrounding the proposed legislation. We tried to compile just about everything that has been put together and published in recent years concerning the issue of collecting artifacts from Florida rivers and other submerged lands. Go to www.fpan.us and click on the FAQ tab at the top. There you will find the pertinent information at the top of that list.

HB803/SB1054 proposes a small change to state law (Florida Statute Ch. 267) in order to reinstitute a program similar to the Isolated Finds Policy of 1994-2005. Essentially, the proposed legislation replaces the word “may” with “shall” [Ch. 267.115(9)(a)] thus requiring the Division of Historical Resources to administer a permit system allowing folks to obtain artifacts from state bottomlands as long as location information of the finds is reported to the Division within a certain amount of time.

At this point, the Bills have been analyzed for congruency with state law and policy. They have each been amended once. Up to sixteen Representatives are identified as sponsoring the House Bill. A smaller number of Senators are co-sponsors for its companion Bill in the Senate. Several legislators have had opportunities to discuss the merits of each Bill in committee hearings and have surely received plenty of calls, letters and emails of support and opposition. Go to http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/ or http://www.flsenate.gov/ and search for each Bill to find out more information.

Please continue to provide our elected officials with your thoughts, concerns, and encouragement concerning HB803 and SB1054. It’s entirely possible that many of them have not talked this much, or thought this intensely, about Florida’s past and the relics symbolic of long gone daily life.
The duty of monitoring and protecting the St. Martins Marsh and Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserves falls to Florida Coastal Office (FCO), a division of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Together these environmental zones cover nearly 1,000,000 acres of submerged land along the Nature Coast. As the largest aquatic preserve in Florida, this pristine ecosystem supports important recreational and commercial fishing industries along five coastal counties.

For the same reasons both modern day for-profit and for-fun fisher folk continue to enjoy the aquatic preserve, for a millennia before today people have been enjoying and utilizing the substantial resources from the Nature Coast. The evidence of this activity is widely seen throughout the estuaries, brackish creeks, and along the Gulf Coast. Whether it is the large shell middens and mound sites left by prehistoric inhabitants or the numerous relics of the area’s maritime past, assessing and monitoring these cultural resources is vital to preserving the rich history. The Florida Public Archaeology Network, Central Regional Center, and Florida Coastal Office, have formed a partnership to take on the task of helping to protect and monitor these valuable cultural resources.

The sites might be at risk for a myriad of reasons ranging widely from sea-level rise, erosion, development, or simply nature reclaiming the coast. With this interagency partnership we hope to keep our eyes on “at risk” sites throughout St. Martins Marsh and Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve. According to Jamie Letendre of FCO, “The dynamic nature of the coast and the fragile nature of the cultural resources inventory, particularly those located in the near shore and estuarine contexts, indicate a need to continue the location, evaluation, and protection of prehistoric sites. The Department of State’s Division of Historical Resources (DHR) maintains records of Florida’s cultural resources. As indicated in the Florida Coastal Office Mission statement, which is to “Conserve and Restore Florida’s Coastal and Aquatic Resources for the Benefit of People and the Environment”, staff will work with the DHR and Florida Public Archaeology Network – Central Region (FPAN – Central) to reassess and continue monitoring the documented historical resources within both SMMAP and BBSAP.”

The initial goals of the partnership will be two-fold and progress throughout the next two years. First, we will evaluate previously documented cultural resources within the aquatic preserve boundaries. Second, we will monitor the sites evaluated initially and begin an assessment on an annual basis to document future change or threats.
Long before the Gator emblem was emblazoned on signage and buildings, before Century Tower was built, and long before all the grand stone architecture, gargoyles, and carvings were etched, the land that is now home to the University of Florida was once home to large groups of Native Americans surviving on the vast resources the lakes and uplands provided. This fascinating story of the prehistory and history of the University of Florida campus was the focus of the year ending History Bike Gainesville III bicycle tour.

The UF campus was not the only point of interest on the bike tour. Riders began at First Magnitude Brewing Company and rode northwest through the University Heights - South Historic District. The first stop on the tour was an excellent example of a historic architectural style largely unique to Gainesville. This historic district, located east of campus and south of University Avenue, was originally a residential neighborhood for UF faculty and staff during the first decades of the 20th Century. The “Chert Rock” or “Field Stone” architectural style was in fashion beginning in the 1920s and at its height in the 1940s and 1950s. Chert, a type of locally quarried limestone, was an early sustainable building material used for several houses you can see throughout Gainesville Historic Districts.

The historic university quad was officially designated as the Plaza of the Americas during the inaugural meeting of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs held at UF in 1931. HBG riders met Carl Van Ness, the official UF historian and archivist at the Plaza, who introduced the university origins and provided some insight into specific characters and buildings that played an important role in the school’s history.

From the Plaza, riders rode to the northwest corner of campus and backwards along the historic timeline, to a prehistoric archaeological site located adjacent to the School of Law.

The Alachua culture site—deemed the “Law School Mound”—was roughly excavated in the 1880s then again in the 1970s by UF archaeologist, Dr. Jerald Milanich, and his students. The Alachua culture people occupied the site around AD 960 and built a low, sand burial mound just upslope from a prehistoric village that once existed along the shore of Lake Alice, the final stop on the bicycle tour.

Riders moved to another Native American burial and village site at the location of the Baughman Center along the lake’s west shoreline. Known as the “Welcome West” Site, the Alachua culture village and burial site was found during a cultural resource assessment survey in a lot west of the Baughman Center. (Continued page 4)
Florida Archaeology Month
By: Becky O'Sullivan. Public Archaeology Coordinator FPAN West Central

Every year in March, Florida celebrates its diverse heritage and buried (or submerged) past through Archaeology Month. Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) chapters, archaeologists, heritage professionals, museums, historical societies, and interested members of the public come together to promote and celebrate archaeological sites and knowledge about the past through events, workshops, lectures, and public archaeology days. Another highlight of this month of archaeological celebration is the new poster that is developed every year to highlight a unique theme within Florida archaeology. Building on the timeline poster series established over the last few years, this year we will be highlighting the Woodland Period in Florida.

If Florida’s first people, the Paleoindians, were explorers who blazed new trails and settled a new land, and the people who came after them (known as the Archaic People to archaeologists) were innovators who faced changes with new technological advancements, then the people of the Woodland Period were artisans who we can celebrate for their craft and creativity. From approximately 1000 BC to AD 1000, or from 3,000 to 1,000 years ago, Woodland People lived throughout Florida and shared their ideas and designs with other people throughout the southeast. This widespread exchange of people, ideas, rituals, craft, and raw materials is a hallmark of the Woodland Period, and an interesting avenue of study for archaeologists today.

This year’s poster highlights different aspects of creativity and exchange during the Woodland Period: pottery and burial goods, mound centers, trade goods, and the Crystal River archaeological site in Citrus County to name just a few. To learn more about Woodland Period sites in your area you can visit go to the “Explore” page at www.fpan.us/wcrc or check out the Florida Archaeology Month website starting in March at www.FLarchmonth.org.

History Bike Gainesville III (Continued)

UF archaeologist, Donna Ruhl, of the Florida Museum of Natural History, located Native American human remains as well as an array of prehistoric artifacts in the area currently covered by Baughman Center parking lot. The pottery recovered was indicative of the Alachua culture and this helped archaeologists determine a timeline of the site’s occupation. The Alachua tradition was known for its “corn-cob stamped” style of pottery design, which provides meaningful evidence of maize cultivation by the culture. This is significant in Florida archaeology, as before this technological advancement, Native American food resources were limited to hunting, fishing, and gathering of plants.

Become An FPAN Volunteer! Please contact Nigel Rudolph at snrulolph@usf.edu
WEEKIWACHEE - LITTLE SPRING. Weekiwachee is a spring and short river in Hernando County that empties into the Gulf at Bayport, and is so deep that the bottom still hasn’t been found. The river was first recorded on a map in 1839. In the Creek language, wikaiwa means "spring" and -chi means "little." Therefore, Weekiwachee means "little spring." It is probably most well known for its unique population of mermaids. In 1946, Newton Perry decided it would make a great place for a business and eventually developed the famous mermaid shows. Adapted from “Florida Place Names of Indian Origin and Seminole Personal Names” by William A. Read.

Photo: https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/8896

Digging Up Dishes!
Recipes from the Past

Leroy Smith, retired CRASP park ranger, active volunteer, Florida native, and all around great guy, provided us with a delicious Smith Family Recipe!

SOUR ORANGE PIE:
COOKED FILLING AND MERINGUE

INGREDIENTS
3 large eggs
1 cup granulated sugar
¼ cup all-purpose flour
3 ½ tbsp. corn starch
¼ tsp. salt
2 cups water
1 tablespoon butter
1/3 cup sour orange juice
1 pie shell, 9 inch
¼ tsp. cream of tartar
5 tbsp. of sugar
*optional (zest from ½ sour orange)

PREPARATION
- Separate eggs; set whites aside. Beat egg yolks in small mixing bowl.
- In saucepan over med low heat, combine the 1c. sugar, flour, corn starch and salt. Gradually stir in water. Cook, stirring constantly until thicken.
- Gradually stir 1/3 of the mixture into the beaten egg yolks: stir mixture into the remaining hot mixture in the pan. Continue cooking over low heat, stirring for two minutes. Stir in the butter, sour orange juice, and peel zest. Allow to cool slightly.
- Pour into the pie shell and cool (store bought graham cracker pie shell works well). Top with meringue and brown in oven (preheated to 425 degrees, 5 - 6 minutes.)

MERINGUE TOPPING
Beat egg whites until light and frothy. Add ¼ tsp. cream of tartar, continue beating until the whites are stiff enough to hold a peak. Gradually beat in 5 tbsp. of sugar and whip until meringue is stiff and glossy. Pile meringue lightly on cooled pie filling, spreading it until it is all the way to the edge of the pie shell (helps prevent meringue from shrinking).

May 22th, 2016 2-4 PM
Florida Museum of Natural History
www.eventbrite.com/e/archaeology-works-canoes-tickets-19731464341

What’s In A Name?
By: Brittany Vojnovic. Outreach Assistant, FPAN West Central Region

The Florida Public Archaeology Network is dedicated to the protection of cultural resources, both on land and underwater, and to involving the public in the study of their past. Regional centers around Florida serve as clearinghouses for information, institutions for learning and training, and headquarters for public participation in archaeology.