

Daniel G. Roberts Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology



Florida Public Archaeology Network

Florida Public Archaeology Network staff, fall 2014: *Front row, left to right:* Mike Thomin, Jeff Moates, Rebecca O'Sullivan, Kassie Kemp, Nicole Grinnan, and Melissa Timo; *middle row, left to right:* William Lees, Emily Jane Murray, Della Scott-Ireton, and Barbara Clark; and *back row, left to right:* Michele Williams, Nigel Rudolph, Sarah Nohe, Sarah Miller, Ryan Harke, and Kevin Gidusko.

The 2015 Daniel G. Roberts Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology was presented in January to the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) at the 48th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Seattle, Washington. FPAN will celebrate its 10th anniversary in July 2015, a milestone that has been achieved through an outstanding record of contributions to public historical archaeology.

FPAN is a program of the University of West Florida (UWF) and operates throughout Florida in eight regions (<http://www.fpan.us>). UWF runs two of these regions directly; the others operate through annual, renewable contracts with other state institutions, including Flagler College (St. Augustine), Florida Atlantic University (Fort Lauderdale), and the University of South Florida (Tampa). FPAN's mission is "[t]o promote and facilitate the stewardship, public appreciation, and value of Florida's archaeological heritage through regional centers, partnerships, and community engagement." Programming focuses on public outreach, assistance to local governments, and assistance to the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

FPAN has created programming focused on Florida's long and diverse archaeological past, and, although programs center on the state's archaeological heritage, FPAN reaches a global audience. Through an impressive array of innovative programs and projects focused on historical archaeology, FPAN is generating heritage awareness and fosters stewardship among Florida

students and residents, as well as among tourists. In fact, through Internet-based programming, FPAN is able to reach an audience that may never visit Florida, but still appreciates the state's heritage. The examples of FPAN's programming provided below illustrate the diversity of the program's approach to reaching the public and creating heritage awareness.

The Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar (HADS) teaches the advantages of conserving shipwrecks and other submerged cultural resources, not only in order to preserve information about the collective past, but also to preserve the vibrant ecosystems that grow around historical shipwrecks. HADS focuses on providing scuba-training agency course directors, instructor trainers, and instructors with a greater knowledge of how to proactively protect shipwrecks, artificial reefs, and other underwater cultural sites as part of the marine environment. Upon completion of HADS, participants can teach the new Heritage Awareness Diving Specialty Course, approved by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, the National Association of Underwater Instructors, and Scuba Schools International, and they can also incorporate underwater historic preservation approaches into other courses. HADS courses are offered in Florida, but the participants come from far and wide, taking the lessons of historic preservation with them when they return home (<http://www.fpan.us/programs/HADS.php>).

The Coquina Queries Project provides an education program based on the study of regional "coquina" ruin sites and focuses on the unique and important role of this material in Florida history. Coquina, a conglomerate stone composed of shell fragments and sand, forms naturally over thousands of years. Used to construct forts, homes, and many other structures, coquina provided unusual stability because of its unique makeup. Coquina Queries are lesson plans that bring together the geology, history, archaeology, environment, and chemistry of Florida's past through hands-on experiments and firsthand experiences with coquina (<http://coquinaqueries.org/>).

The Cemetery Resources Protection Training Program focuses on cemetery care and protection. Participants explore historical cemeteries, including their roles as historical and cultural resources, the laws that protect them, conservation of headstones and markers, management of cemetery landscapes, and practice hands-on headstone cleaning with a D-2 solution (<http://www.fpan.us/workshops/CRPT.php>).

This Submerged Sites Education and Archaeological Stewardship (SSEAS) Program is intended to train sport divers in the methods of archaeological recording without the disturbance of resources and then to give these trained divers a mission. This mission focuses on investigating sites in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Automated Wreck and Obstruction Information System (AWOIS) with the goal of identifying possible historical shipwrecks and other submerged cultural sites. SSEAS divers are trained to recognize historical shipwrecks and cultural sites, to record sites using photography and hand-drawn site plans, and to fill out Florida Master Site File recording forms. Once training is complete, SSEAS divers are able to perform all these necessary tasks and are encouraged to begin investigating AWOIS sites and report their findings to the responsible authorities (<http://www.fpan.us/workshops/SSEAS.php>). As with the HADS Program, SSEAS capitalizes on Florida's reputation as a dive destination, and participants take the lessons learned in Florida with them wherever else they may go.

Archaeology Works is a new series of educational workshops focused on explaining the ways archaeologists learn about the past to youth and adult audiences. Each workshop in the series focuses on a specific topic, including the newest addition: "Historic Ceramics." Workshops on maritime archaeology are in development.

The radio program Unearthing Florida is a project of WUWF Public Media (Pensacola), the FPAN, and its founder, Dr. Judith Bense. Unearthing Florida is designed to enhance the public's understanding of Florida's archaeological heritage by highlighting archaeology at all eight of FPAN's regional research centers. Quite a few of the 90 sec. episodes focus on historical archaeology (<http://unearthingflorida.org/menu.htm>).

Videos and podcasts produced by FPAN include a number of individual historical archaeology topics, including some in the "Virtual Florida Fieldtrip" series produced in the FPAN Northeast Region and the new "Archaeology in 3 Minutes" series. The virtual fieldtrips are just what the

name suggests, and the seven featured destinations are all historical archaeological sites in the St. Augustine vicinity. “Archaeology in 3 Minutes” is a web series that highlights archaeology throughout Florida. Each “webisode” in the series lasts three minutes! These videos and podcasts are linked on FPAN’s Educational Resources page (<<http://www.fpan.us/resources/videos.php>>).

FPAN has sponsored public archaeology projects to assist other state agencies in investigating and preserving cultural heritage sites. Specifically, FPAN has worked with Florida State Parks at a Confederate river battery in Torreya State Park, at a post–Civil War servants’ quarters in the Orman House Historic State Park, and at Ybor City Museum State Park. FPAN has also conducted projects at Fort Jefferson and at Kingsley Plantation, both of which are managed by the National Park Service. At Torreya State Park, results of the public archaeology project allowed FPAN to produce trailhead signage and four wayside signs that replaced the previously minimal signage along one of the park’s most popular hiking trails. At Fort Jefferson, projects included documentation of historical graffiti in fort buildings. At Kingsley Plantation, FPAN developed and installed new wayside signage highlighting the results of University of Florida archaeological excavations of a slave cabin. FPAN staff are also helping to document Cuban refugee vessels that have become part of the heritage landscape in the Florida Keys and at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

In addition to the programs and public projects listed above, FPAN regularly works with educators to provide innovative lesson plans that put historical archaeology into classrooms and events through interactive exercises, such as “Shipwreck on a Tarp” (<<http://www.fpan.us/resources/>>) or “Battlefield on a Tarp.” FPAN staff members routinely deliver public lectures on topics related to historical archaeology, both around the state and around the world. Internet-based programming, such as “Unearthing Florida,” allows FPAN to reach an audience beyond the state’s borders.

FPAN’s abundance of programming in historical archaeology is a result of the influence of its founder, Dr. Judith Bense, and executive director, Dr. William Lees (both past presidents of SHA). FPAN staff members include a number of historical archaeologists, many of whom are active within SHA, the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, and other professional organizations. FPAN works to encourage public engagement with archaeology as much as it works to encourage professional archaeological engagement with the public. To that end, in 2010, FPAN hosted the 43rd Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology at Amelia Island, Florida (the conference chair was FPAN Associate Director Dr. Della Scott-Ireton), and sponsored a very cold but successful public day at Kingsley Plantation (organized by FPAN Northeast Region Director Sarah Miller). FPAN is focused on the next generation of professionals and uses its association with UWF and other host institutions to introduce undergraduate and graduate students to public historical archaeology. FPAN support, opportunities, and assistantships have resulted in student research and experiences that these young professionals will carry with them as their careers progress.

Through almost 10 years of innovation and collaboration, FPAN archaeologists have developed successful tools for engaging the public in historical archaeology in Florida and have made a difference in every county of the state. In 2014, for example, FPAN offered 1,803 programs and activities that reached 83,103 individuals within Florida. The SHA congratulates FPAN on its 10th anniversary and on its outstanding record of excellence in public historical archaeology.

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