

# EXPERIENCE ARCHAEOLOGY



FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK  
West Central Regional Center

WINTER EDITION

November 2014

## USS Narcissus Dedicated as Florida's 12th Shipwreck Preserve

By: Jeff Moates

This month the State of Florida dedicated USS *Narcissus* as the twelfth underwater archaeological preserve. The Florida Aquarium nominated the shipwreck site in 2010 as an important objective of their ongoing Tampa Bay Shipwreck Survey. The dedication ceremony was held at the Aquarium in downtown Tampa with a live feed to the site, which is located approximately 2 to 3 miles west of Mullet Key just outside of the entrance to Tampa Bay. Divers and archaeologists unveiled the monument to an engaged crowd of supporters and officials from various organizations.

USS *Narcissus* is a



An artist's depiction of what USS *Narcissus* might have looked like.

mid-nineteenth century wooden tug boat built in Albany, New York in 1863 and commissioned to operate in the East Gulf Blockading Squadron during the Civil War. Overall size of the hull measured approximately 81 feet 6 inches long,

with a beam (width) of 18 feet 9 inches, and a depth of hold of 8 feet. Visible features of the shipwreck resting on the sandy bottom today include the fallen over remains of the single cylinder inverted steam engine, the (Continued on pg. 4)

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## Florida Archaeology Month is Almost Here!

By: Becky O'Sullivan

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 two years, this year we will be highlighting (Continued on pg. 5)



Fiber-tempered pottery invented during the Archaic Period.

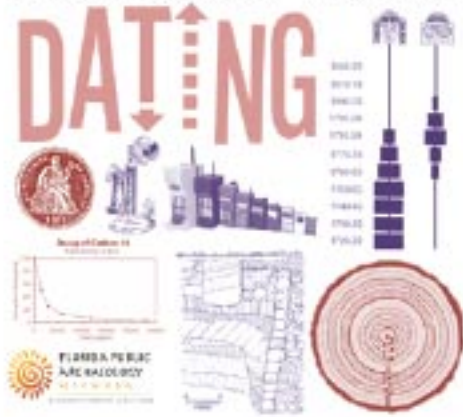
Drilled shark tooth tool

Bolen Plain Projectile Point or Knife from the Archaic Period.



# Upcoming Events

## ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS:



### Archaeology Works: Dating

**SATURDAY 2/7, 10-Noon**

Weedon Island Preserve  
1800 Weedon Dr NE  
St Petersburg

Archaeologists find lots of clues to the past, but how do they figure out how old all those dusty artifacts are? From looking at how artifact styles change through time to running high tech tests on them to get a better date, archaeologists have many different dating techniques at their disposal. Learn about a few of these different dating methods, then try them out and see if you can get a date! Recommended for all ages. <http://goo.gl/kXFhTL>

### Archaeology Lecture - New Insights on Pottery from the Crystal River Site

**THURSDAY 2/19, 7-8PM**

Weedon Island Preserve  
1800 Weedon Dr NE  
St Petersburg

The Crystal River site is a Woodland-period mound complex in west central Florida. Revisiting a collection of over 16,000 sherds previously excavated at the site by Ripley Bullen and others provides an opportunity for new insights on a collection that has never been thoroughly analyzed. This presentation by USF M.A. student Kassie Kemp will focus on a few aspects of the research project such as the differences in vessel types, forms, and functions and their distribution across the site. This new information adds to a broader understanding of pottery and its role in social interactions at this famous site.

### Volunteer Lab at Weedon Island

**FRIDAY 2/20, 10-Noon**

Weedon Island Preserve  
1800 Weedon Dr NE  
St Petersburg

Ever wonder what archaeologists do with all that stuff they dig up at archaeological sites once the fieldwork is finished? At the FPAN

Volunteer Lab, you can come find out for yourself! Learn all about how artifacts and other archaeological material get processed in the laboratory so that we can use them to learn about the past. You will get the chance to sort through, identify, and wash artifacts and other material from real archaeological sites!

All ages are welcome to participate or observe, children 12 and under should be accompanied by an adult. <http://goo.gl/OhgeBA>

FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK

### Volunteer Lab



### Archaeology Lecture - Early Safety Harbor Commu- nities at Weedon Island

**THURSDAY 3/19, 7-8PM**

Weedon Island Preserve  
1800 Weedon Dr NE  
St Petersburg

Recent excavations at Weedon Island have uncov-

ered substantial early Safety Harbor-period deposits, dating between A.D. 1000-1200. There is evidence that during the Safety Harbor period, people in the Tampa Bay area reorganized themselves socially and politically. Platform mounds were constructed that may have helped to structure new forms of interaction between and across communities. However, few archaeological sites have revealed evidence of daily life activities like those are being uncovered at Weedon Island. The preliminary results of recent fieldwork will be presented and contextualized in terms of local social organization and participation in regional processes.

## Meet Our New Intern!

By: Judge Jones

My name is Judge Jones and I am in my first year at New College of Florida. I have always been intrigued by history and especially archaeology, so being the new intern for the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) and the New College Public Archaeology

Lab (NCPAL) is an exciting honor.

The opportunity to learn from local archaeologists and to share my passion and enthusiasm about this field is a privilege. I look forward to working with existing outreach programs offered by FPAN and NCPAL, helping to develop and implement

new ideas to showcase archaeology to the community, and to participating in ongoing research with FPAN.

I have experience working with kids in camp settings and in working with the public as a tour guide. I hope both of these skills will be helpful in my new role with FPAN.



Judge and Jeff meet in the New College Public Archaeology Lab to discuss our internship program.



## Volunteer Lab at the Weedon Island Preserve in St Pete

By: Kassie Kemp

Ever wonder what archaeologists do with all that stuff they dig up at archaeological sites once the fieldwork is finished? At the FPAN Volunteer Lab, you can come find out for yourself! You will learn all about how artifacts and other materials from archaeological sites are processed in the laboratory, and will get the chance to sort through, identify, and wash artifacts from real archaeological sites. Some of the material we will use for this lab comes courtesy of Dr. John Arthur of USF St. Pete. He and his students have been conducting a research project out at the Weedon Island Archaeologi-

cal Site and are allowing us to use their material for this special opportunity to show the public an important step in archaeological research.

Why is lab work so important you might ask? If we as archaeologists do not know what artifacts we might have at a site, we won't know how to research them. We can learn different informa-



tion from studying each kind of artifact but the ways we study shells are very different from the ways we study stone tools or pottery. That means it's essential to sort through all of the artifacts you have in the lab so that you know what you have and what kinds of analyses you will need to do. All of the work that is done in the lab is what gets us to the most important part of archaeology: understanding the people that made or used all of these things we are studying.

If you would like to come and learn about the past residents of Florida, our next lab day will be held on February 20th from 10 am to 12 pm at the Weedon Island

Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. This event is free and all ages are welcome to participate or observe, but children 12 and under should be accompanied by an adult. Registration is requested but not required. For more information or to sign up go to: <http://goo.gl/yjhXQ7>



Image caption

## FPAN Receives Recognition by the Society for Historical Archaeology

By: William Lees  
FPAN Executive Director

At the 48th annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, convened in Seattle, the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) presented FPAN with its Daniel G. Roberts Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology. Established in 2011 and first presented in 2012, this award recognizes outstanding accomplishments in public historical archaeology by individuals, educational institutions, for-profit firms or organizations, museums, government agencies, private sponsors, or projects. It was presented at the SHA awards banquet and ceremony along with other Society's top-tier awards.

FPAN was nominated for this award by Irina Sorset of the Louisiana Department of



Image caption

Transportation and Amanda Evans of TESLA Offshore. In their nomination, Sorset and Evans noted that "FPAN has created programming focused on Florida's long and diverse archaeological past, and while programs center on the state's archaeological heritage, FPAN is reaching a global audience. Through an impressive array of innovative programs and projects focused on historical archae-

ology, FPAN is creating heritage awareness and fostering stewardship among Florida students and residents, as well as tourists. In fact, through internet-based programming, FPAN is able to reach an audience that may never visit Florida but appreciates its heritage." Programs highlighted in the nomination were the Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar (HADS), Coquina Queries project, Cemeteries Resources Protection Training (CRPT), Submerged Sites Education and Archaeological Stewardship program (SSEAS), Archaeology Works program, Unearthing Florida public radio program, videos and podcasts, and a variety of historical archaeology programs aimed at assisting our partners with interpretation of archaeological sites.

A number of FPAN staff, board members, and advisors were present at the conference and the awards ceremony. Executive Director William Lees, Associate Director Della Scott-Ireton, and Director of the Northeast and East Central Regions Sarah Miller received the award for FPAN from SHA President Charles Ewen and Awards Chair Teresita Majewski after remarks were made by Amanda Evans.



Image caption



## Cemeteries Need Your Help, CRPT Can Show You How!

### UPCOMING CRPTs near YOU

THURSDAY January 29th

9:00 - 3:00pm

1914 Plant City High School  
Community Center  
605 N Collins Street  
Plant City, FL 33563

Morning snack and box lunch  
will be provided. Contact  
Becky O'Sullivan for info:  
rosulliv@usf.edu

FRIDAY February 13th

9:00 - 3:00pm

Palma Sola Community Church  
8604 9th Ave NW  
Bradenton, FL 34209

Registration is \$10, lunch will  
be provided. Contact  
Becky O'Sullivan for info:  
rosulliv@usf.edu

By: Brittany Yabczanka

CRPT stands for Cemetery Resource Protection Training and is one of FPAN's many fantastic training programs. It focuses on how community members can protect, preserve, and sustainably care for historic cemeteries in their area. Participants explore cemeteries as historical resources, laws that protect them, techniques for conserving headstones and markers, cemetery landscape management practices, and get to practice hands-on headstone cleaning with a D-2 solution that does not harm the stone it is being used on. They also get a binder full of resource materials for future reference and a bottle of concentrated D-2 cleaner to take home with them.

FPAN centers throughout the state work in partnership with community groups to



Participants learn the proper way to clean headstones in the field portion of the training. Bleach is the enemy of your historic cemetery!

set up these local trainings. Participants who come to a CRPT are generally interested in the training for several reasons. Some live near a cemetery in disrepair, while others want to make sure they take care of their family plots for future generations. The CRPT program has been

very popular throughout the state and we have seen great steps made in restoring several cemeteries as a result of the program.

June 2014 featured the inaugural state-wide CRPT conference or CRPTiC (we sure do love our acronyms), which allowed us to go even more in depth with how to protect historical cemeteries. There were hands-on demonstrations of more advanced preservation techniques like headstone resetting and ironwork stabilization which added to the knowledge base of CRPT alumni in attendance. Half of the day was dedicated to demonstrations in a nearby cemetery, the other half and another full day had guest speakers with expertise in different areas of cemetery care and protection. Information about this year's CRPTiC will be available soon, we hope to build on our past success!

## USS Narcissus Dedicated as Florida's 12th Shipwreck Preserve (Continued from pg 1)



Underwater Archaeologist Franklin Price, Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner, and State Historic Preservation Officer Rob Bendus at the dedication ceremony.

propeller and associated stern assembly, and other exposed remains of the hull and boiler components.

Divers and snorklers are now encouraged to visit the site to experience the shipwrecked vessel and see the thriving, whirling ecosystem of marine life that colonizes her remains. Multitudes of fish can be seen any given day at the site including large goliath grouper, angelfish, mangrove snapper, and stingray. There's really too many to list! As an artificial reef system, the physical relief of the shipwreck site attracts many schooling fish and predators as well as other sea life.

If you are not a diver,



Lantern recovered from USS Narcissus, after conservation.

don't worry the site is also available to experience without jumping in the Gulf. Go to [www.museumsinthesea.com](http://www.museumsinthesea.com) to visit the site through video and still pictures. The website is also host to Florida's other underwater archaeological preserves or museums in the sea. If you are a diver or snorkeler however and have a hankering to go see the site for yourself, please remem-

ber that the site is a military grave and treat it with respect. Take only photos and leave only bubbles.



USS Narcissus is also home to diverse sea life!



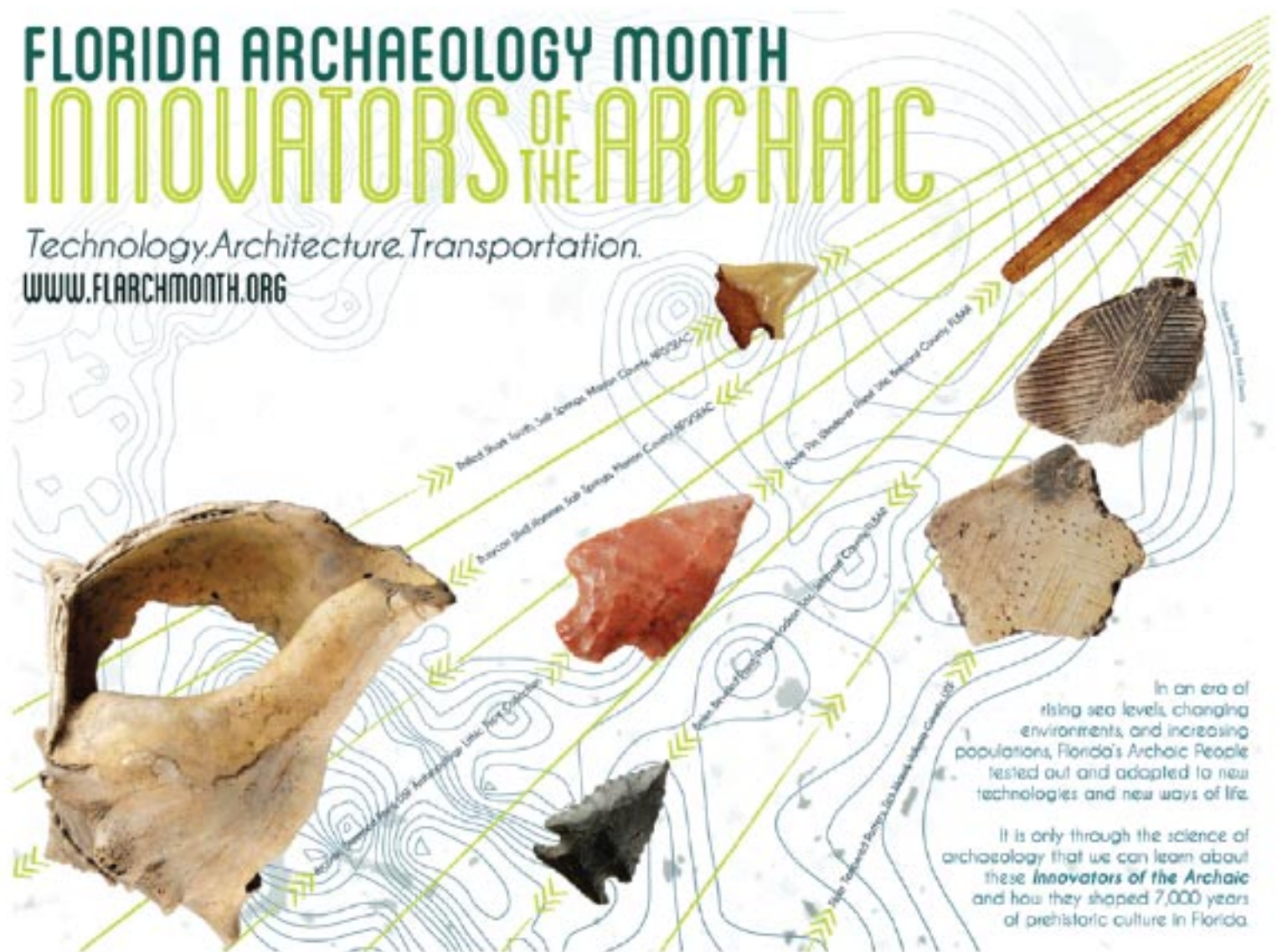
## Florida Archaeology Month is Almost Here! (Continued from pg 1)

Florida's Archaic Period. If Florida's first people, the Paleoindians, were explorers who blazed new trails and settled a new land, the people who came after them (known as the Archaic People to archaeologists) were innovators who faced changes with new technological advancements. Much like today, the Archaic People dealt with climate change and rising sea levels with creativity and innovation

This year's poster highlights the top innovations of the Archaic Period: Canoes, Pottery, Stone Tools, Shell Rings, and Burial Ponds like the Windover site in Titusville. If you would like to visit an Archaic site in your area you can visit our "Explore" page at [www.fpan.us/wcrc](http://www.fpan.us/wcrc) or check out the Florida Archaeology Month website at [www.FLarchmonth.org](http://www.FLarchmonth.org)

# FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH INNOVATORS OF THE ARCHAIC

Technology. Architecture. Transportation.  
[WWW.FLARCHMONTH.ORG](http://WWW.FLARCHMONTH.ORG)



In an era of rising sea levels, changing environments, and increasing populations, Florida's Archaic People tested out and adapted to new technologies and new ways of life.

It is only through the science of archaeology that we can learn about these *Innovators of the Archaic* and how they shaped 7,000 years of prehistoric culture in Florida.

*This year's poster features artifacts from Archaic sites throughout the state of Florida. Here's a view of the front, but if you'd like to see both sides (and snag one for yourself) be sure to come to one of our events throughout the month of March! As we get closer to March you can find an archaeology month event in your area by visiting [www.FLarchmonth.org](http://www.FLarchmonth.org).*

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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.

For more information about archaeology and events in your area, check out our website or click on the images to the right to follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

[www.flpublicarchaeology.org/wcrc](http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/wcrc)  
[www.facebook.com/FPANwestcentral](http://www.facebook.com/FPANwestcentral)



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