Molino Mills: The Maritime Cultural Landscape of a Reconstruction Era Sawmill in Molino, Florida

The January meeting meeting will be held at the WEST FLORIDA PUBLIC LIBRARY downtown Pensacola on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 7 PM.

Joe Grinnan, UWF graduate and currently the SEARCH dive safety officer, will present the program about his Molino Mills research. Joe studied the late 19th century sawmill remains located near the 18th century Spanish mission discovered and excavated at Molino for several years by Dr. John Worth.

The economic disposition of Molino depended on the prosperity of its industries. The lumber industry was the major determinant in the rise or fall of the city for much of the nineteenth century. The largest of these sawmills was a steam-powered mill aptly named Molino Mills. In 1866, a group of wealthy entrepreneurs built Molino Mills in the hopes of tapping into West Florida’s lush, yellow pine forests. The mill is situated on the banks of the Escambia River. The mill itself is not limited to its terrestrial components. Documentary research has revealed a maritime aspect in the culture surrounding the lumber industry, while riverine archaeological investigations have uncovered several structural features that extend into the river.

Analysis of terrestrial and maritime fieldwork as well as primary documents helps us understand the maritime resources surrounding this Reconstruction Era sawmill.

Join us and bring a friend or two.
REMEMBERING KAY GAUTIER, “RETIRED” PAS TREASURER

A celebration of life service was held Wednesday November 27 at St. Ann’s Catholic Church for long time PAS and FAS member Kay Gautier. Graveside services were held December 14 at the Biloxi Cemetery.

About 5 years ago Kay “retired” from the job as PAS treasurer which she had held for many years and passed the books on to Norine Carroll. At the same time she passed on the job of FAS membership chair to Pat Balanzategui of Fort Walton Beach. In her free time, she became very involved at St. Ann’s.

When Kay became PAS treasurer and FAS membership chair, all of the books were kept hard copy and there was no help from computers to keep up with all the details of either job. During her time as treasurer, Kay brought PAS into the digital age by learning to use software designed to keep all the records straight. This “new” software even allowed her to print out the monthly treasurer’s reports for the PAS board instead of having to type them. Amazing back then…

Kay loved archaeology. She volunteered at digs, manned the information table, sat in on the lab class and worked in the lab. We will miss her.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1. University of West Florida Archaeology Lab - The lab will reopen on Jan. 24. Hours are 10 am-2 pm. For more information call 474-2087.
2. Florida Public Archaeology Network Lab – Lab will resume Jan. 14 and the work days will remain Tuesday and Wednesday 10 am to 4 pm
   No experience is necessary and a brief orientation will get you started.

FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PAS is a member of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS). Twenty five members of PAS are also FAS members. You must join FAS individually to receive the journal, The Florida Anthropologist, and the FAS Newsletter. See the FAS website for more information: http://www.fasweb.org

Dues are: Regular and Institutional - $30, Family - $35, Student - $15 (with copy of current student id). **Applications available at PAS membership meetings each month.
French Colonists Reburied in Cemetery in Biloxi:

The remains of 31 European settlers from the early 1700s were reburied at their original burial site near the Biloxi Lighthouse on the Gulf of Mexico on Friday, December 20. The skeletons were uncovered during Hurricane Katrina and were excavated by team of University of Southern Mississippi students under the direction of Dr. Marie Danforth, Professor of Anthropology. Study of the skeletal remains indicated that most were men under the age of 30. The bones had evidence of stunted growth, disease, and early arthritis, suggesting that they were probably indentured servants forced to come to the new French colony on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.


FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY ACCEPTS FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH ARTIFACTS

In December the University of Florida's Museum of Natural History became the new owner of 97,000 artifacts excavated over the past 40 years from the first 1565 Spanish settlement and fort that were built in the midst of a Timucuan Indian village on the site at the Fountain of Youth Park in St. Augustine.

John Fraser, manager of the park, joined his sisters Elizabeth Binninger and Elaine Fraser and his brother, Bryan Fraser, to formally sign over ownership of those artifacts from the Fountain of Youth Park Properties to the museum, so the artifacts can be made available to scholars, scientists and historians. "Today is one of the greatest days in the life of this park," Fraser said. "My grandfather and father realized very quickly that there was more [history] to be discovered and more to be preserved."

Fraser praised the dedication, integrity and expertise of Dr. Kathleen Deagan, UF's Distinguished Research Curator of Archaeology Emerita and Lockwood Professor of Archaeology, who has led many digs at the park since the 1970s. "[Our studies] can help researchers learn more about the 16th century," she said. "This site has very important archeological potential for expanding and refining our understanding of the ways our first European colonists adapted to the people and environment of America." During the interview Deagan mentioned a number of interesting artifacts that have been recovered during the excavations including an olive jar, an amulet, buttons, needles, pottery, a 16th c pistol and cannon balls.

Fraser explained that only about a third of the park has been excavated. "We look forward to Dr. Deagan staying on," he said.

From DECEMBER 18, 2013 THE TIMES-UNION 8:3

NEWS FROM FPAN NORTHWEST REGION

Nicole Bucchino, Outreach Coordinator Northwest Region based at the Florida Public Archaeology Network Center; Dr. William Lees, Executive Director FPAN; and Dr. Della Scott-Ireton, Associate Director FPAN, contribute periodically to this newsletter.

FPAN offers far too many local and regional activities to list them here. Find something to do near you by subscribing to their newsletter or by using the following:

FPAN Website: http://flpublicarchaeology.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FPANnorthwest
Twitter: www.twitter.com/FPANNorthwest
COMING EVENTS

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT US AT OUR NEW WEBSITE  http://pasfl.org

2014

JAN 14  Molino Mills: The Maritime Cultural Landscape of a Reconstruction Era Sawmill in Molino, Florida
Joe Grinnan, SEARCH Dive Safety Officer/Maritime Archaeologist
7 PM, WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL LIBRARY
239 N. SPRING ST., PENSACOLA
Free and open to the public

FEB 11  Spanish Frontiers: A Study of Social and Economic Exchange Networks
Present in 18th-Century Spanish Missions
Danielle Dadiego, UWF Graduate Student

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