

Panhandle Preservation Press

Panhandle Historic Preservation
Alliance

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Grants Still Available Despite Rough Economic Times

During this time of economic hardship, we are all concerned with the financial situations of our organizations. Many of us survive on donations from private individuals and government grants. Unfortunately, right now people, businesses, and even our government has less money to spend. However, there are several grant opportunities still available to help our organizations thrive during this difficult time.

Federal Preservation Assistance Grants are currently available. Organizations looking for funding to assist in the preservation of collections and documents are encouraged to apply for these

grants. A maximum of \$6,000 is available and the application is due May 14, 2009.

National Endowment for the Humanities grants for Preservation and Access Education and Training are also available. These grants help fund training and educational programs. The applications for this grant are due July 1, 2009.

Please check the PPHA website for more information about these grants. We also encourage everyone to share any information and ideas they have about funding opportunities. PPHA also encourages all of its members to support each other's efforts, by writing



letters of support, forming partnerships for grant projects, and sharing resources.

Spring PPHA Meeting Focuses on Disaster Preparation

Vernon Compton and Nathan Woolsey from the Santa Rosa Historical Society and the Milton Main Street program are the featured speakers for the upcoming PPHA meeting. Mr. Compton and Mr. Woolsey will be discussing what to do when a disaster strikes a museum. They will

speak about their experiences during the Milton fire and the knowledge they gained. Mr. Compton and Mr. Woolsey will talk about their involvement working with state agencies as part of the recovery, offer advice to other museums, and answer questions.

The spring PPHA meeting will be April 20th at 2:00 pm at the Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park and Cultural Center. We will also be discussing our goals for the rest of the year and selecting a member event to participate in during the fall.

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Spring PPHA Meeting:

- April 20th, 2:00 pm, in the Lazaras Room of the Indian Temple Mound Museum in the Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park & Cultural Center.
- Disaster Preparation & the Milton Fire will be Discussed

PHPA Members Kicked-Off Florida Archaeology Month

During March the entire state of Florida celebrated Archaeology Month. Many of the PHPA organizations held or participated in Florida Archaeology Month events.

On February 28th, the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) held their annual Florida Archaeology Month Kick-Off Celebration. Previously PHPA voted to officially participate in this event. Unfortunately, illness and family emergencies

prevented PHPA from setting up their own booth during the event. However, several PHPA organizations, including FPAN, Emerald Coast Archaeological Society, Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park & Cultural Center, Pensacola Archaeological Society, the Perdido Bay Tribe, and University of West Florida Archaeology Institute, participated in the event. In addition to setting up displays, passing out information, and selling

items, member organizations spread the word about PHPA by passing out PHPA brochures at their booths.

Despite the threat of rain, the Kick-Off was a great event! Not only was the event larger than ever before (primarily due to the participation of PHPA members) but attendance tripled from the previous year! Thanks to everyone for making the Kick-Off such a great day.

Florida Heritage Month Update

March 15th-April 15th is Florida Heritage Month. The purpose of Florida Heritage month is to "heighten awareness of our state's rich history, its historical sites, museums, and libraries and the visual and performing arts"

(www.floridaheritagemonth.com).

Several member organizations, including the Fort Walton Beach Heritage

Park and Cultural Center and the Florida Public Archaeology Network, are celebrating Florida Heritage Month by holding special events including lectures, festivals, and craft shows.

A complete schedule of Florida Heritage Month events throughout the state can be found at www.floridaheritagemonth.com. Please check to see if your organization's events

are on this website. It is a free and an easy way to advertise your organization's April events.



"March 15th-April 15th is Florida Heritage Month."

Visit

www.floridaheritagemonth.com

Contacting Your Representative Could Save Our History

PHPA would like to remind its members of the importance of staying in close contact with your elected officials, especially during this time of economic crisis. One way to protect ourselves is to remind our leaders about the importance of historic preservation.

Willard Smith of the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement and PHPA VP of the Eastern Region, has prepared a template for a simple, yet meaningful letter that could be sent to your state representative. Here it is:

Dear Representative,

Thank you for all your hard work in this difficult time. The old saying "when the going gets tough the tough gets going." Help keep Arts, Culture, and Historical Preservation going as they bring in big bucks to Florida.

PHPA Founder Remembered

With great sadness, the officers of PHPA wish to recognize the passing of one of our founding members, Russ Sneddon. Russ was a leader in historic preservation in Northwest Florida. For many years Russ worked as the Director and Curator of the Air Force Armament Museum at Eglin AFB. Russ also served as a board member for the Baker-Block Museum and was instrumental in bringing historic, heritage, and preservation organizations together to create a group that would later become PHPA.

"I credit him for pulling us all together at the beginning. I would not have known about what came to be PHPA if he hadn't mailed me an invitation to the first meeting" said Diane Merkel, Walton County Heritage Museum and web master for PHPA.

Here is one of the eulogies delivered at Russ' funeral:

Russell Clyde Sneddon Jr. was born Aug 8th 1934 at Dee Hospital in Ogden Utah to Annabelle Longstroth and Russell "Scott" Sneddon. As he grew up, he attended Ogden High School where he played football, pole vaulter on the track team, and also competed in swimming and wrestling. Russ came from a family where boxing was a family tradition. He excelled in the AAU or Amature athletic union, winning several golden gloves as well as outstanding boxer intermountain in both the Jr and Sr divisions. He entered the United States Navy after high school and served as a hospital corpman. There he did everything from setting broken bones to helping deliver babies. In 1955 he married Ardeth Fay Hart of Bantam Connecticut. They had three children, Heidi Gori and Jeff. After his military service he attended the University of Utah Where he was a diver on the swim team competing in the Ncaa National Championship. He earned his Bachelors of Science and Masters of Science in Education Administration, and later earned another Bachelors degree in Art with photograph emphasis from Weber State University. He went on to coach Football, Basketball, Baseball, swimming and Lacrosse at Cheshire Academy in Connecticut. He later returned to the University of Utah as a teaching Assistant, organizing and coaching the Utah Lacrosse team. He worked for five years with the Deseret Gyms in Salt Lake , putting on the national indoor synchronized swimming championships. Word got out about this extraordinary young man and was soon elected president of the intermountain AAU boxing and as well he served as the National Executive director of the US Junior Olympic program. , and he founded the Canadian Jr Olympic program during the Montreal Olympic games.

Russ developed programs for ABC Wide World Of Sports and NBC. He was the director of the 5th World Judo Championship in Salt Lake City. In 1976 He married Nita Chapman In Speedway Indiana. Where they lived for a year. They moved to Utah and started a family having 2 sons Lance and Luke Sneddon

All his life he never slowed down, he soon became the Director of the Utah Governors Cup Regatta. After that he served as the first director of the Air Force Museum at Hill Air Force Base in Ogden Utah. Museum life would soon become his passion, and he was offered a job to start the Eglin Air Force Base Armament Museum, bringing his family from Utah to Florida. He worked at the museum for over 20 years before retiring Sept. 13 2007.

While working at the museum Russ stayed busy using his personal time to fill his life and others lives with memories. He founded the Emerald Coast Sister Cities program which formed a partnership between Crestview, Destin, FWB, Niceville and 4 cities in France. He served as a member of the Rotary, Kiwanis, and the Lions clubs. As well as being a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Ogden, FWB, and Crestview.

Russ was an ordained High Priest, and he served as The branch President of the Olive Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints serving more than 5 years in that position. His many callings included serving on the high council, young mens pres., branch mission leader, elders quorum pres., and stake missionary.

As Lance and Luke were growing up he served as Pres. Of the PTO, and in the Baker area youth association, and the on the Baker area Recreation Association.

Towards the end of his run as the AFB curator/ director he spent time trying to develop a strong organization of museum professionals, which resulted in forming the Pan Handle Historic Alliance. Currently the Alliance has 30 plus museums and heritage centers, from Tallahassee to Pensacola. At age 65 he found a new dream, and spent

many hours creating his Sea Horse Gulf Course on his 20 acres of land in Baker Florida. After several Hurricans he gave up his beloved golf course because of the damage. So he then volunteered his time to the Baker Block museum.

Russ led a full life and touched many people. All who met him were instant life long friends, and the world is a better place because of the energy he brought to us all. Russ was also someone who never boasted about his achievements, I bet most of you didn't know half of the things he accomplished in his life because he never bragged about himself. He was a special man and a special father and husband and friend to us all.



Events Blog added to PHPA Website

Thanks to the hard work of Diane Merkel, PHPA web master, a new events blog has been added to the PHPA website. Each week the blog will highlight the events of the upcoming weekend. The blogs will include images and additional information

about the events, beyond what is already on the events calendar. The purpose of the blog is to increase traffic to our website and our member events by appearing on search engines, such as Google or Yahoo.

Please email photographs and information about your upcoming events to Diane at DDMerkel@cox.net. You can view the PHPA events blog at www.panhandlehistoricalalliance.org/wordpress.

PHPA Objective

To bring together community leaders and other interested individuals and organizations who are actively engaged in the collection, preservation, and restoration of historic property and memorabilia from the state of Florida and their respective communities. By working together during this time of financial and economic instability we can more effectively use our resources and manpower in the preservation of our historic treasures.

www.panhandlehistoricalalliance.org

Back Page Story Headline

Many PHPA member organizations have events planned for April and May. For more information about these events and a full calendar of PHPA member events please visit our website

www.panhandlehistoricalalliance.org

April 2nd

- *Steak on the Take!*
To benefit the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida at Kelley's SuperValu Parking Lot, Niceville

April 7th

- Lecture, "Pensacola Archaeology & History Update with Dr. Judy Bense" at Northwest Florida State College, Niceville

April 11th

- *Archaeology Day!* At the Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park & Cultural Center

April 14th

- Lecture, "The Rise & Fall of Pensacola's Spanish Missions & the Road to Veracruz" and Pensacola Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting, Bowden Building, Pensacola

April 15th

- Lecture, "Archaeology of the Civil War & 19th Century Florida," at the Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park & Cultural Center

April 16th -18th

- *Panhandle Folk Life Days*, at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, Blountstown

April 18th

- Celebrate Pensacola's 450th Anniversary Teacher Workshop, Pensacola
- Earth Day Festival, Topsail Hill Preserve State Park, Santa Rosa Beach

April 20th

- PHPA Quarterly Meeting, City of Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park & Cultural Center

April 25th

- Custom Knife Show & Sale, at the Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, Blountstown
- *Saturday in the Park* Heritage Festival, Valparaiso

May 2nd

- Everlasting Stitches: Past & Present Quilt Show, Panhandle Pioneer Settlement,

Blountstown

- Mom & Me Tea, Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park & Cultural Center

May 8th-9th

- Bat Night, Panhandle Pioneer Settlement, Blountstown
- Florida Anthropological Society Annual Meeting, Pensacola Grand-Crowne Plaza Hotel

May 12th

- Lecture, "Barkley House Excavations (built 1832)" and Pensacola Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting, Bowden Building, Pensacola

May 16th

- Rush Weaving Class, Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso

May 23rd

- Pine Needle Basketry Class, Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, Valparaiso

May 30th

- Pine Needle Basketry Class, Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

Preserving the Panhandle's Past.

