



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Timucuan Ecological and
Historic Preserve

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Jacksonville, FL 32226

Kingsley Plantation

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Timucuan Preserve/Kingsley Plantation News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Archaeology Weekend at Kingsley Plantation

Do you ever wonder how archaeologists make sense of the past? Learn more, “Archaeology Weekend” at Kingsley Plantation and the Ribault Club, part of the Fort George Island Cultural State Park, June 5 and 6, 2010. See archaeologists at work and learn about the tremendous amount of new information revealed through their research. Archaeologists will explain current archaeological investigations within the Timucuan Preserve. Saturday, June 5 beginning at 1:00pm, archaeologist Dr. James Davidson (University of Florida) and students will treat park guests to guided tours of archaeological sites at Kingsley Plantation.

Sunday, June 6, Dr. Keith Ashley and Dr. Robert Thunen, from the University of North Florida, whose research centers on American Indian life in northeast Florida, will present slide shows about their recent archaeological discoveries. Dr. Ashley and students have been on a quest to uncover the remains of the Mocama (Timucua) villages, Vera Cruz and Sarabay, settled over 500 years ago. Dr. Thunen and his team have been examining the remains of a 17th century Spanish Mission established for the Mocama (Timucua) Indians, named Santa Cruz. The June 6 festivities will conclude with a presentation and guided tour by National Park Service Archaeologist, Mike Russo. He will discuss findings from the Rollins Shell Ring Excavations, located on the Fort George Island Cultural State Park, and then give a guided tour of the shell ring. The Florida Public Archaeology Network will have a booth with hands-on children’s activities. All June 6 activities will take place at the Fort George Island Cultural State Park.

Sponsored by the National Park Service, Florida Park Service, Florida Public Archaeology Network, University of Florida’s Department of Anthropology, and University of North Florida’s Department of Sociology and Anthropology, this event is free and open to the public.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

The **Florida Public Archaeology Network** will present a table of information and artifacts about archaeology in northeast Florida. Visitors can learn more about the tools and process of archaeology, and view historical photographs of Kingsley Plantation that help archaeologists plan their work at the site. More information is available at <http://www.staugustineparc.com/>

Dr. James Davidson is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African American Studies at the University of Florida. His research interests include historical archaeology, African Diaspora, mortuary studies, and folk beliefs. This is the third year he has directed a field school at Kingsley Plantation. Visit his webpage at <http://web.anthro.ufl.edu/faculty/Davidson.shtml>

Ms. McIlvoy is a graduate teaching assistants for the 2010 field school. She and other students will explain their projects over the last few years. Ms. McIlvoy will take visitors on a walk of the slave quarters excavation site.

Archaeologists from the University of Florida Anthropology Department are completing a six week field school at Kingsley Plantation during May and June 2010. This public day provides a chance to see archaeologists at work.

Dr. Keith Ashley is a part-time professor of anthropology at the University of North Florida (UNF). His research centers on Native Americans of southeastern North America, particularly Florida. His current research explores the involvement of St. Johns fisher-hunter-gathers in the broader world of Mississippian farmers.

Dr. Robert Thunen is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at UNF. His research seeks to unearth several Mocama Villages abandoned over 400 years ago.

Mike Russo, National Park Service Archaeologist, researches prehistoric archeology of southeastern North America and the Caribbean and Archaic Period mound cultures and shellrings. He then uses his findings to educate the public about what we can learn about past civilizations through archaeology and the need to preserve these important aspects of our national heritage.

Kingsley Plantation is a 60-acre unit of the 46,000-acre Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve in Jacksonville, Florida, which is managed by the National Park Service. It is named for Zephaniah Kingsley, who – with his African wife Anna – owned and operated a 1,000-acre plantation there during the first half of the nineteenth century. Today, the public can visit the grounds, which include the oldest standing plantation house in Florida, the kitchen, barn, and waterfront. The still-standing remains of 25 slave cabins offer perhaps the most graphic evidence of slave living quarters and daily life experiences in the state.

Located off Heckscher Drive/A1A north of the St. Johns River ferry landing, Kingsley Plantation is open daily, at no charge, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 904.251.3537, or go to <http://www.nps.gov/timu> on the Internet.

The Ribault Club opened in 1928 as a wintertime recreational resort. As a part of the resort era on Fort George Island, the Ribault Club offered its members opportunities for golfing, tennis, hunting, fishing, and yachting, among other diversions. The Ribault Club became a part of Fort George Island Cultural State Park in 1989. The exhibits at the Ribault Club cover the natural and cultural history of the island, from the time before humans inhabited this area to the present in an interactive format.

Located on just 1 mile up the road from Kingsley Plantation, the Ribault Club State Park is open Wednesday through Sunday, at no charge, between 9:00a.m. and 5:00p.m.

Schedule of Events for Saturday, June 5, 2010

Location: Kingsley Plantation (904) 251-3537, 11676 Palmetto Avenue, Jacksonville, FL. 32226

- 1:00 p.m. Sugar Mill Update
Dr. James Davidson, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African American Studies, University of Florida
- 2:00 p.m. Guided tour of the East Slave Quarters Archaeological Site
Karen McIlvoy, Graduate Student in Archaeology, University of Florida
- 3:00 p.m. Guided tour of the West Slave Quarters Archaeological Site
Dr. James Davidson, University of Florida

Schedule of Events for Sunday, June 6, 2010

Location: Ribault Club State Park, 11241 Fort George Road, Jacksonville, FL. 32226

- 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Interactive Archaeology Booth for Kids
Florida Public Archaeology Network & Park Staff
- 1:00 p.m. O Brother, Where Art Thou?: Locating the Spanish Mission of Santa Cruz
Dr. Robert Thunen, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of North Florida
- 2:00 p.m. UNF's Search for Mocama (Timucua) Villages
Dr. Keith Ashley, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of North Florida
- 3:00 p.m. Discovering Shell Rings in Florida: Fort George Island
Mike Russo, Southeast Archaeological Center, National Park Service
- 3:30p.m. Guided Tour of the Rollins Shell Ring of Fort George Island
Mike Russo, Southeast Archaeological Center, National Park Service

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