

## PENSACOLA AREA CEMETERY TEAM (PACT)

### THE IDEA:

The Pensacola Area Cemetery Team (PACT) was organized in late 2013 following Pensacola Mayor Ashton Hayward's request to the UWF Division of Anthropology and Archaeology for assistance in identifying and addressing issues associated with historic cemetery resources located within the city limits of Pensacola. UWF has a long-standing commitment to community service and is pleased to assist the City of Pensacola in promoting historic cemetery preservation. The UWF Archaeology Institute has been actively involved with local, state, and regional historic cemetery preservation issues for over thirteen years. The UWF Florida Public Archaeology Network has also taken an active role statewide in promoting historic cemetery preservation. Like many municipal governments, the City of Pensacola does not own the cemeteries within city boundaries. However, the City does wish to be supportive of citizens overseeing historic cemetery resources.

The Pensacola Area Cemetery Team (PACT) is composed of professionals in the fields of archaeology, history, historic preservation, municipal government (several branches), landscape maintenance, and law. Several professionals and community volunteers involved with PACT were instrumental in establishing a successful stewardship plan for historic St. Michael's Cemetery. PACT will offer public talks, workshops, and one-on-one sessions with local steward groups, and will produce a comprehensive historic cemetery resource manual for use by municipal government and private stewardship groups.

### THE MISSION:

*The Mission of the Pensacola Area Cemetery Team (PACT) is to promote local historic cemetery preservation through an interdisciplinary approach to education and training and by fostering an informed stewardship base.*

### THE REASONING:

Across the country, municipalities are struggling with how best to address issues associated with the historic cemetery resources dotting the contemporary landscapes of their communities. In Pensacola, our historic cemeteries are open-air museums that reflect a rich cultural heritage. Whether well maintained, neglected, or abandoned, they will be a constant presence on the landscape into the foreseeable future.

In Pensacola and elsewhere, how cemetery resources are addressed will generally result in one of two outcomes; if no action is taken, many will continue to be eyesores that pose a threat to public safety. On the upside, if issues are effectively addressed, cemetery resources can become inviting community assets that contribute to a "sense of place" for residents and visitors alike. By addressing the complex issues associated with the cemetery resources in our community, we will be moving toward the second outcome.

### THE PLAN:

Following a series of organizational meetings and with input from local cemetery stewards, PACT members began to identify specific needs to be addressed as well as to explore topics of specific interest to local stewards. Over the course of 2014, PACT will work with local stewardship groups on strategies that will enable citizen stewardship groups to better oversee the historic cemetery resources in their care. The end product will be a comprehensive manual detailing issues, best practices and guidelines, resource referrals, and recommendations for promoting the preservation of Pensacola's historic cemetery resources. This manual will be applicable to cemeteries in Escambia County and will be useful to stewards of cemeteries throughout Florida as well.

## THE SCHEDULE\*

**February 24 (6-7pm at FPAN):** *Historic Preservation and Your Historic Cemetery*  
(Facilitators: Dr. Ramie Gougeon, Dr. Elizabeth Benchley)

**March 31 (6:30-7:30pm):** *Cemetery Stewardship: Why and How*  
(Facilitators: Dr. Della Scott-Ireton, Helen Gibson, Rhoda Warren, Renea Brown)  
**PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING BEGINS AT 6:30**

**April 21 (6-7pm):** *Cemetery Landscape Conservation and Maintenance: Best Practices*  
(Facilitators: Ross Pristera, Gwinn Corley)

**May 19 (6-7pm):** *Conservation for Historic Stone and Fencing: Best Practices*  
(Facilitators: Margo Stringfield, Dr. Della Scott-Ireton)

**May 31 (Saturday 9am-Noon):** *Hands-on Cleaning Workshop*  
Location: St. Michael's Cemetery. Reservations required - stewards have top priority.  
(Facilitators: Sarah Miller [FPAN Northeast Regional Center], Margo Stringfield, Dr. Della Scott-Ireton)

**June 16 (6-7pm):** *Cemetery Documentation/Mapping: From Bare Bones to GIS*  
(Facilitators: Margo Stringfield, Lauren Walls, Gregg Harding, Charlie Gonzalez, Dr. Kristina Killgrove and/ or Dr. Joanne Curtin)

**June 21 (Saturday 9am-Noon):** *Hands-on Documentation/Mapping Workshop* Location: Magnolia Cemetery. Reservations required - stewards have top priority. (Facilitators: Margo Stringfield, Lauren Walls, Gregg Harding, UWF-GAA, other PACT team members)

**July 21 (6-7pm):** *Vandalism and Disaster Planning: Make a Plan*  
(Facilitators: Margo Stringfield, Charlie Gonzalez, Ross Pristera, Dr. Joanne Curtin and/or Dr. Kristina Killgrove)

**August 18 (6-7pm):** *Law and Order: Local and State Laws plus The Role of City Code Enforcement and The Escambia County Property Appraisers Office*  
(Facilitators: Frank Winn, Dr. Ramie Gougeon, Steve Wineki, Renea Brown)

**September Date/Time TBA:** *Grants: Who, What, Where, When, and How*  
(Facilitators: Grants specialists from UWF Research and Sponsored Programs and Florida Department of State, Division of Historic Preservation Historic Preservation Grants Programs)  
This will be a two hour workshop offered likely on a week day or a Saturday. Stewards will have priority at this reservations-only event.

**October 16 (6-7pm):** *Review of Manual by Area Cemetery Stewards/PACT Members*  
(Facilitators: Dr. Ramie Gougeon, Margo Stringfield, other PACT Committee members).  
Product to City of Pensacola on October 31.

**\* Unless otherwise noted, public talks (for area Stewards and other interested parties) will be from 6-7pm on the dates indicated on this schedule and held at the West Florida Public Library (239 N. Spring Street, Pensacola).**

**For additional information contact: UWF Archaeology Institute at (850) 474-3015**