

Carr Cabin Update

U M A T I L L A H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y
O C A L A N A T I O N A L F O R E S T

CARR CABIN..MOVING RIGHT ALONG

Progress is being made out at the Carr Cabin. Since the last Newsletter a lot has happened. First, a USFS (US Forest Service) saw crew (John Bronson and Chris Jarc) removed several large trees that



roots and another corner was subsiding from being undercut by a rodent burrow...all compounded by the fact that the bricks had been laid di-

rectly on a sand base...i.e., no foundation! ing stabilization/rebuilding of the deteriorated pole timber foundation and subfloor. In total, thirteen 42-gallon sacks of rodent-deposited organic material were removed, until bare soil was reached. Then the surface was decontaminated.



Chimney base directly on sand, no foundation!



USFS sawyer John Bronson watches as large oak, whose roots were lifting the cabin chimney, falls safely away from the cabin.

were threatening the cabin. One live oak was actually directly impacting the cabin as its roots were lifting up the brick chimney and a second larger laurel oak was overhanging the cabin and near the end of its lifespan.

rectly on a sand base...i.e., no foundation!

A secondary effect from the rodent burrow under the chimney corner was that 70+ years of a probable Florida Woodrat's occupation had resulted in the crawl space under the floorboards being crammed full of rodent "debris" i.e. litter, feces, skeletons, etc., etc. Due to health concerns, the USFS hired a professional pest removal outfit to remove this "organic" debris prior to initiat-



Jeff Penuel secures timber "strong-backs" to chimney prior to "righting."

Jeff accomplished the "righting" of the chimney by a slow and painstaking process involving reinforcement of the chimney with large timber "strongbacks" secured with ropes, ratchet straps, and chains hooked up to a series of hand winches (come-alongs), attached to the base of the felled laurel oak, all working in unison with hydraulic jacks placed under metal plating beneath the chimney base.

(continued on Page 2)

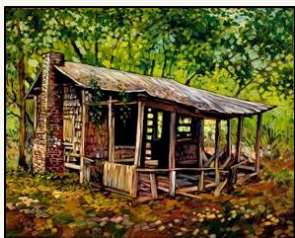
INSIDE

- Carr Cabin..Moving Right Along
- Update from the Umatilla Historical Society
- Equinox Documentaries Wins Best Film of 2009 at Amelia Island Film Festival
- Ocala National Forest welcomes new District Ranger

Following the removal of these threats, builder Jeff Penuel successfully leveled and straightened the chimney. This was no small feat considering that the weak, sandy mortar holding the bricks together was crumbling, one corner was being up-lifted by



Rodent debris under cabin floor being removed.



MOVING RIGHT ALONG...

A little here...a little there...stand back & look....listen...hold your breath...dog it off...let it rest over night...can't go too fast or risk the prospect of discovering just how



Jeff Penuel carefully adjusts the come-alongs.

meaningful the old saying “ Coming down like a ton of bricks!” really is.

It was a very touchy process. We originally had hoped to use injected pressure grouting to quickly and easily raise and “right” the chimney, but this was ruled out by the operators we consulted, for fear of blowing out the crumbling, brick base.

So, it was all hand work. There were a few tense moments, especially one morning, after a surprise heavy, overnight rain had created a washout, loosened bricks and buried the jack under sand. Jeff carefully removed the spoil, re-set the metal support plate between the jack and bricks and continued the nearly finished “righting” of the chimney. Just as



Root lifted chimney corner; leveled then stabilized with poured concrete foundation.

things were lining up nicely, the loose stacked bricks above the jack and plate started to crumble outward slightly...we held our breath and stopped...looked things over...we were level and plumb...sooo....we backed slowly away from the chimney and then raced to hand mix enough concrete on-site to pour a stable foundation under this end of the chimney (encasing the support jack in place during the process).

It worked...all held, and the process was repeated (with less drama) on the opposite side of the chimney...again, encasing the support jack in place. Once these two sides of the chimney were leveled and stabilized the rest of the chimney base was undercut and a concrete support foundation was poured. The interior hearth was likewise leveled and set. The level of the hearth would serve as the elevation baseline for the floor restoration.

Now, with the chimney stabilized and the rodent debris safely removed, the coast was clear for Jeff and his crew to build solid concrete pier bases to support the new subfloor. Again, as with “righting” the chimney, this task was much easier



Cabin with straightened chimney .

said than done!
In order for Jeff to accomplish this he would first need to “levitate” the structure and remove the entire rotten subfloor and foundation...then replace the subfloor and foundation with new material, “to code”. The new subfloor was to be built to code, using treated pine lumber in accordance with the stabilization/restoration protocol developed by renowned Preservation Architect, Herschel

Shepard and approved by Florida’s SHPO (State Historic Preservation Officer) architectural compliance staff.



The “levitated” cabin, with foundation and subfloor removed!

This “levitation” was accomplished by first securing two 2” x 12” support beams along the base of both of the cabin’s long walls, then jacking up the structure carefully and securing it to the support beams with bolts through the bases of all the sound uprights in the cabin walls, while carefully adjusting the exterior cabin bracing timbers. Only then could the rotten subflooring and foundation material be safely removed and new construction begun.

According to the protocol, archeologists Martin Dickinson and John Davidson of South Arc, Inc. coordinated with Jeff’s work on the foundation and subflooring .



Inspecting and trimming rotten material from sound original floorboards.

They screened all areas to the various depths of proposed impact: under the removed porch, under the interior cabin floor, at the locations of all the foundation piers and where dirt was removed from under the chimney.

(continued on Page 3)

(South Arc, Inc. is an established archeological/historical firm out of Gainesville, Florida. The firm's president and co-founder, Martin Dickinson also just happens to be Archie Carr's godson and one of the last people to hunt out of the cabin in the 1970's. It truly is a small world!). Martin



Martin Dickinson shovels porch soil to John Davidson (holding recovered shotgun shell).

and South Arc, Inc. have generously donated their services to the restoration effort.

With the archeological screening done and the foundation piers in place, Jeff finished the subflooring and re-set all of the "sound" original floor boards in the cabin. Phase I was complete...well, almost complete.....



Herschel inspects while Jeff looks on.

We didn't consider it complete until we contacted Herschel Shepard and asked him to come down and inspect the progress and make sure that we were operating within his stabilization/restoration "protocols". Jeff especially wanted him to check out his new, "aged" replacement floor boards he had been working

on to finish the last 1/4 of the cabin floor, to see if Herschel approved. Herschel graciously volunteered to drive down from his home in Jacksonville Beach to help us out ... yet again! But, this time, as an added benefit, he brought along his lovely wife Jean.

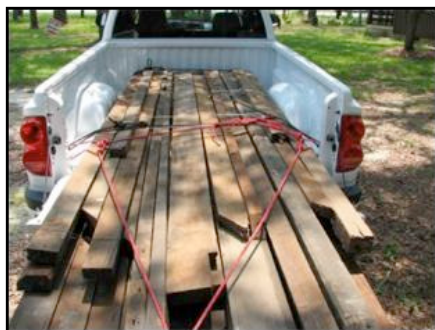


Craftsman - Architect - Cabin

Herschel approves... Jeff is happy. They had a great time going over the process and protocol of this important and difficult first phase of the project and now Phase I is complete!!

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE...

This is where we left it for the summer. (Jeff and his crew usually work on the cabin on weekends between his other major construction projects. When you're working 50-60+ hours a week in 100°+ heat index, it's too much to spend your off-time working in the terrarium-like conditions at the cabin site. He'll start back up as temperatures cool down this fall.) And eventually he'll agree to accept payment for all of his and his crew's work...so far, he hasn't drawn a penny out of the Friends of Carr Cabin restoration account. In the meantime, however, we've been busy locating appropriate materials for the rest of the effort. Chiefland resident and project supporter Leroy Cannon kindly donated a large stock of beautiful, old heart pine rough cut lumber "2-bys" with circular saw marks... salvaged from the demolition of an old homestead in Gilchrist county.



Antique, salvaged heart pine "2-by" lumber donated by Leroy Cannon of Chiefland.

Additionally, Bobby Ross of Suwannee River Woods in Fannin Springs has located some nice yellow pine logs and is cutting the last lumber Jeff had on his list for the project. (Bobby was the first project donor ...after Tom Carr that is). When Bobby heard that the large cedar mantle which Archie had cut specially for Marjorie had been stolen, Bobby hand-picked a cedar log and custom cut a large mantle timber to replace it.)

The final thing that is happening...and the most reflective of the potential the cabin has as a catalyst for passing on the Carr conservation and environmental ethic, is the work being done out at the cabin and tract by a young Umatilla Boy Scout, Harrison Booth. Harrison is a young outdoorsman with an interest in history who found out about the cabin this past spring and came out on one of the guided tours which the Forest Service provided in partnership with the Audubon's Trout Lake Nature Center during Umatilla's Black Bear Festival. While on the tour he expressed an interest in doing his Eagle Project at the cabin site. He will be mapping the vegetative communities on the tract, working on the rough, preliminary nature trail (laid out by FS Silviculturist Janet Hinchee) and placing large tree-sections as "contemplation rounds".*

tours were looking for a place to sit and rest during their visit. So, he came up with a great Archie Carr-type of low-tech solution... large, stable hardwood tree sections..."contemplation rounds" for people to sit on and rest while out at the cabin during these initial stages of the project. He located some appropriate tree-sections and donated them to the cause. Harrison and his Scout buddies will roll them into place.

It's nice to see another Umatilla boy working out at the Carr cabin and tract...just like Tom Carr in 1938. Things seem to be coming full circle. Kinda cool.



Boy Scout Harrison Booth, with his dad (Duane), gets ready to start his Eagle Project at the cabin.

*Osceola National Forest Biologist David Dorman noted that many of the people on the

Dr. Ray Willis
Archeologist and Heritage
Resources Manager
Ocala National Forest
September 30, 2010

**U M A T I L L A
H I S T O R I C A L
S O C I E T Y**

*Friends of Carr Cabin Att: Doris Mabry
Umatilla Historical Society
P.O. Box 64 Umatilla, Florida 32784
uhsfocc@yahoo.com*

The Friends of Carr Cabin was created for the restoration of the Carr Cabin and establishment of a Cabin Support Fund, to insure its preservation and use into the future as a functioning educational symbol and catalyst for the propagation of a continued, viable conservation ethic as espoused by Archie Carr through his life, writings and actions in Conservation Biology.

Friends of Carr Cabin is formed under the umbrella of the Umatilla Historical Society (UHS), a registered 501(c)3. It is operating under a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the US Forest Service. All funds and donations received will be placed in a designated Friends of Carr Cabin account. UHS will receive 12% of donated funds to cover administrative costs incurred and to further development and enhancement of the Umatilla Historic Museum.

All funds stay local and focused.

**NEWS FROM THE
UMATILLA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

The Umatilla Historical Society will host our annual membership B-B-Q on October 28, 2010 at the Umatilla Historical Museum. The dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m.

We have new hours for the Umatilla Historical Museum. The Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month. It is also open other hours by request.



Umatilla Historical Museum

**OCALA WELCOMES
NEW DISTRICT RANGER**

The Ocala National Forest welcomed Mike Herrin as the new Ocala District Ranger in August. Herrin, a 25 year veteran of the Forest Service, comes to the Ocala from the Three Rivers Ranger District of the Kootenai



Ocala District Ranger Mike Herrin
National Forest in Montana where he served as District Ranger.

Herrin replaces Rick Lint, who served as District Ranger on the Ocala National Forest for five years. Lint took a position as Deputy Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in Mississippi in April 2010.

**EQUINOX
DOCUMENTARIES WINS
AMELIA ISLAND FILM
FESTIVAL FOR CARR
CABIN FILM**

The not-for-profit Equinox Documentaries of Orlando won Best Florida Film of 2009 at the Amelia Island Film Festival for "Celebrating a Forgotten Place: The Carr Family Cabin in the Florida Scrub." The film festival was held February 25-March 1, 2010.

The 12 minute film which Equinox Documentaries produced and donated focuses on the history of the cabin and its restoration.

To learn more about Equinox Documentaries and their current projects visit:
www.EquinoxDocumentaries.org .