
CENTRAL GULF COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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CENTRAL GULF COAST
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY, 2016



39 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE

EDITOR: BECKY O'SULLIVAN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016, 7:00 PM

AT

WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY CENTER
1800 WEEDON DR. NE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33702



Traci Ardren, Ph.D.
University of Miami

Results of Recent Archaeological Research at Upper Matecumbe Key—Evaluating Early Island Life

New excavations at a prehistoric living site on Upper Matecumbe Key provide rich archaeological data on what life was like for the earliest inhabitants of the Florida Keys. Unique challenges of life on the island chain were addressed in novel ways by this culture of coastal fisherfolk. We will discuss the similarities and differences between so-called Matecumbe inhabitants of the Keys, the better known Calusa of the west coast, and the contemporary people of the Everglades. Archaeological evidence is disappearing at a dangerous rate in the Keys due to development and climate change, but analysis of existing artifact collections as well as new excavation of preserved sites can provide extraordinary information about the earliest coastal inhabitants and their unique way of life.

These programs are free and open to the public. Please register at least 24 hours prior to this event by visiting <http://goo.gl/za3tKN>. You can also call 727-453-6500 to register.

HB803 CALL TO ACTION

By Theresa Schober



Dear FAS members:

On November 30, 2015, Representative Charlie Stone of Ocala introduced House Bill (HB) 803 relating to isolated historic and archaeological artifacts recovered in Florida by private individuals on state lands. The bill currently has nine co-sponsors (Representatives Baxley, Grant, Latvala, Murphy, Perry, Pilon, Plasencia, Smith, and Van Zant). An identical bill has been filed in the Senate (SB1054).

HB803 and SB1054 create a permit process that allows people to remove artifacts from state owned submerged lands using hand-held excavation equipment to dislodge them. This is currently illegal under state law. Unlike the previous Isolated Finds Program that was redacted in 2005 based on evidence of wide-spread non-compliance, the current bills provide for the transfer of ownership of the recovered artifacts. The Division of Historical Resources is provided the opportunity to inspect, photograph and analyze the artifacts, but it is required to provide detailed information on site areas to be avoided. Currently site location information is exempt from Florida Sunshine Laws due to its sensitive nature and the propensity for looting to occur on known sites.

This distinction between the previous Isolated Finds Program and the proposed legislation (HB803, SB1054) is significant. The organizations that have hired lobbyists to see this legislation enacted are engaged in the artifact trafficking business. This bill would allow them to dislodge artifacts from Florida river bottoms and immediately sell them for private gain. The organizations with a vested financial interest in these bills recently held a private event in Tallahassee - Collectors at the Capitol - with Rep. Stone as their special guest. This legislation is not intended to support casual hobby collecting although it might be characterized as

such. The key individuals involved are based throughout the Southeast and are the principal operators of an antiquities market supplied by Florida's submerged cultural sites. After the Division of Historical Resources discontinued the Isolated Finds Program in 2005 and after the Florida Fish and Wildlife Service engaged in Operation Timucua in 2013, this illicit antiquities market was significantly curtailed. The current legislation will reverse the progress made in protecting Florida's cultural heritage for all of its citizens.

It is important that FAS chapters, members, and individual chapter members speak out against this legislation. Please educate your delegates about this legislation's source and special interests, as well as the irreparable damage this will cause to Florida's unique, non-renewable historical and archaeological resources. The organizations involved in lobbying for this new legislation, such as the Tri States Archaeological Society or the Sunshine States Archaeological Society, may sound like FAS chapters but they do not meet FAS's ethical requirements for membership.

The Legislature convenes on January 9, 2016. Please provide the following information to your chapters and other groups and individuals concerned with Florida's archaeological and historical resources. Please call or email your legislators, particularly those on the Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development in the House. The state legislature also has online tools for finding your district representatives. These tools and links to additional information can be found below.

Sincerely,

Theresa Schober
FAS President

Resources to Explore

- [HB 803 text](#)
- Find Your Legislators tools
 - [SENATE](#)
 - [HOUSE \(Note: You can also email House members from this site.\)](#)
- [Communicating with your legislators](#)
- Sign the petition! <https://goo.gl/B97GWq>

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Please join me in welcoming the newest members to CGCAS: Jen Hannum, Paul Jones, Barbara Fite, Anya Frashuer, and Alison Hardage!

DUES ARE DUE!

Do you enjoy our monthly lecture series? If you would like to see it continue in the future please do your part and renew your membership with CGCAS. Your dollars go toward bringing top archaeological researchers from throughout Florida and the Southeast to speak in our area. CGCAS wouldn't be possible without your continued support. Thank you for all that you do to make this group possible (and thank you for your continued support!)

Please note that the dues have increased as of January, 2016. See the new rates under the Membership heading. Dues can be paid in a variety of convenient ways: they can be paid directly to Cheryl Shaughnessy at our monthly meetings, they can be mailed to Cheryl at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780, or they can be paid online at our website through Paypal at www.cgcas.org. Again, your dues are what make our monthly speaker series possible, thank you for your continued support of CGCAS!

BACKFILLING AT MAC PERRY'S PLACE

On Saturday, January 16th, CGCAS members got together to backfill an archaeological unit excavated by CGCAS in 2009 at Mac and Faye Perry's house, which is located on top of the Bayshore Homes site. You can see some images from the original Bayshore Homes survey project that began in 1999 at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNr5itRCDIY>

Many thanks to Mac and Faye for being such wonderful hosts, and for all their help in making the CGCAS survey of their property, and the neighborhood, possible. Also, thanks so much to Bob Austin, Dave Burns, Linda Allred, Lou Claudio, and Tom and Marcie Connors for coming out on Saturday to fill in the excavation unit!



Getting started moving some dirt!



Thanks so much to everyone who came out!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Would you like to get more involved with CGCAS? We are looking for volunteers to take over the Treasurer and Membership Chair roles on the CGCAS Board. This is a volunteer organization, and we can only make it work with your help! Please contact Cheryl Shaughnessy at shaughnc@me.com if you would like more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LECTURE - The Blackfriary Community Heritage & Archaeology Project: A Model in Site Preservation and Community Engagement *Thursday, January 21, 2016 from 5:30pm – 7:00*

Located in the medieval town of Trim, in the heart of the Boyne Valley in Ireland, are the remains of a fascinating 13th century Dominican friary. Here, excavations are revealing incredible stories of the medieval history of Trim, and of the monks who lived, prayed and were buried in the friary. The excavations are only part of the story. The other part involves how the local community is seeing their past as an amenity for the enjoyment of all and worthy of preservation for generations to come. In 2014, the Boyne Valley was listed by the Lonely Planet as one of the *top ten places in the world* to visit, and the BCHAP was specifically listed as one of the key reasons to travel to the region. Come to the lecture and see why.

WHERE: USF Tampa Campus
C.W. Bill Young Bldg. (CWY) 109
4202 E Fowler Ave
Tampa, FL 33620

EVENT – Alafia River Rendezvous *Friday & Saturday, January 22-23 from 9am – 4pm*

Do you love history, music, and good family fun? Then this is the event for you! We invite you to step into the past! Attend the 2016 Alafia River Rendezvous, a pre-1840 living history encampment. There will be vendors for food and primitive merchandise. Come see period artisans and portrayals of life before 1840. Enjoy a program of music and demonstrators that include flint knapping, broom making, cannon firing, blacksmithing, soap making, weaving, Daniel Boone, and many more. This annual event for the Florida Frontiersmen helps provide scholarships to local high school students as well as other educational and learning opportunities. For more information go to this link:

<http://www.floridafrontiersmen.com/index.php/visit-or-information/>

LECTURE - They Died With Their Boots On: The Roman Hobnail Burials at Gordion (Turkey) *Thursday, February 4, 2016 from 5:30pm – 7:00*

Burial practices tend to vary widely between disparate cultures, and this is perhaps nowhere more evident than at the site of Gordion (Turkey), occupied almost continuously from the Early Bronze Age to Medieval times. Among the many cemeteries located here, three Roman ones were excavated between 1950 and 1994, and the objects and skeletal remains recovered from these cemeteries have helped to shape our understanding of Roman life at this rural town. The most enigmatic of all the burial types are those containing the remains of hobnail boots, found in nearly a third of the total Roman period graves. Were these Roman soldiers, who literally died with their boots on, serving on the outskirts of empire? Come see what new excavations have now revealed about these enigmatic burials.

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CGCAS LECTURE - Dr.s Kathryn and John Arthur, USF, Discovering Bayira: The First Ancient African Genome from Southwestern Ethiopia *Thursday, February 18, 2016 from 7:00pm – 8:00pm*

In 2012, an archaeological team funded by the National Science Foundation excavated Mota Cave in the Gamo Highlands of Southwestern Ethiopia and recovered a 4,500-year-old male human skeleton that has provided the first complete ancient human (*Homo sapiens*) genome sequenced from the African continent. The skeleton was named, Bayira (by-*raa*) meaning “first born” in the Gamo language where Bayira was found. This discovery provides new insights into population interactions in the Southern Red Sea area and in Northeastern Africa and has given us a new perspective on prehistoric adaptations to life in the Ethiopian highlands.

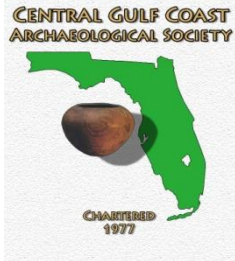
WHERE: Weedon Island Center
1800 Weedon Island Dr NE
St Petersburg, FL 33702

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THE SOCIETY

The Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS) is an association of amateur and professional archaeologists and concerned citizens dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's great cultural heritage. CGCAS is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and is a state chartered non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the cultural past of Florida and who is dedicated to the understanding and preservation of that heritage.

Amateurs, professionals and concerned citizens are welcomed as members. Membership is yearly and all dues are payable in January. Contact Cheryl Shaughnessy at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780

	Dues
Individual	\$25.00
Student	\$12.00
Family	\$30.00

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TAMPA, FL 33620