
CENTRAL GULF COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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CENTRAL GULF COAST
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY, 2016

39 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE

EDITOR: BECKY O'SULLIVAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016, 7:00 PM

AT

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



***Dr. Kathryn Arthur and Dr. John Arthur
University of South Florida St. Petersburg***

Discovering Bayira: The First Ancient African Genome from Southwestern Ethiopia

In 2012, University of South Florida archaeologists, Dr. Kathryn Arthur and Dr. John Arthur headed an archaeological team funded by the National Science Foundation and excavated Mota Cave in the Gamo Highlands of Southwestern Ethiopia. There they 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. They named the skeleton, 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.

These programs are free and open to the public. Please register at least 24 hours prior to this event by visiting <http://goo.gl/Xj4NM6>. You can also call 727-453-6500 to register

DUES ARE DUE!

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!

CGCAS FIELDTRIP APRIL 2-3: FORT CENTER AND ORTONA



Locations for our next fieldtrip to Fort Center and Ortona.

Mark your calendar! On April 2-3 we hope you will be able to make it out for our CGCAS fieldtrip to two amazing archaeological sites: Fort Center and Ortona! Read more about these amazing sites below. We plan to travel to Fort Center, located along Fisheating Creek just west of Lake Okeechobee on Saturday, April 2 then spend the night at the historic Clewiston Inn. Sunday we will venture over to the nearby Ortona site then head

back to the Tampa area. The trip will be all the better because of our expert tour guide – Bob Austin (thanks for offering to show us around, Bob!)



Beautiful murals adorn the walls of the bar at the historic Clewiston Inn.

If you are interested in going please contact Linda at all@tampabay.rr.com. You can make your room reservation at the Clewiston Inn for the night of April 2nd by calling 863-983-8151 and asking for Valerie. Please make your reservation over the phone and **not online**, and mention that you are with the group CGCAS when making your reservation. Online reservations are not eligible for the group discount. If we get at least 10 rooms for our group we will all get a discount. You can reserve the room without cancellation fee if you cancel BEFORE 3PM on Friday, April 1st. Check-in time on April 2nd is 3PM. Free continental breakfast is offered from 6:30AM until 9:30AM. You can also find more information about the hotel at this link: <http://www.clewistoninn.com/>.



Hope you can make it 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.

CGCAS BOY SCOUT ARCHAEOLOGY MERIT BADGE WORKSHOP

On Saturday, January 30th CGCAS members came together to put on a Boy Scout Archaeology merit badge workshop for about 12 scouts from Troop 337 out of Pinellas Park. The scouts started off at the AWIARE research station at Weedon Island where they got an introduction to the basics of archaeology like what an artifact is, the difference between archaeology and paleontology, and what we can learn from stratigraphy.



Scouts learn how to screen for artifacts.

For the next half of the day, we split the scouts up so they could learn about field as well as lab methods. Becky O'Sullivan, Dave Burns, and Bob Austin took one group out to excavate a set up site on Rattlesnake Ridge at Weedon Island. The boys even got to learn how to take elevations with a transit, something that can be difficult even for adults! The other group got to learn about how archaeologists sort and identify artifacts with Kassie Kemp and Dawn Hayes back at the AWIARE

research station. After sorting through midden materials just like a real archaeologist would do they got to finish off the day by testing out some ancient hunting technology: the atlatl. All in all, the scouts seemed to have a fun day and were full of lots of great questions about archaeology and the Weedon Island site. If you know of a Boy Scout troop that would be interested in doing a merit badge workshop please contact Becky at rosullivan@usf.edu.



Learning how to excavate and look for changes in stratigraphy.



Learning to take elevations with a transit.

MORE ON FORT CENTER AND ORTONA

Fort Center is an archaeological site made up of mounds, linear embankments, middens, circular ditches, and an artificial pond near Fisheating Creek just west of Lake Okeechobee. This amazing archaeological site has been studied by various

archaeologists through the years including: William Sears, John Goggin, our very own Bob Austin, and Thomas Pluckhahn.

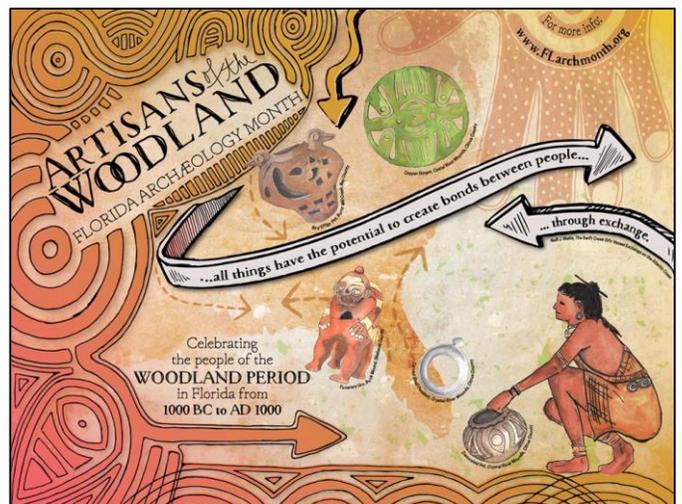
Some of the first archaeological work at Fort Center began in 1964 when William Sears came to the site with a crew from Florida Atlantic University. Sears theorized that the extensive ditches at the site were used to drain the wet everglades savannah at the site so that the land could be used for agriculture. He also reported finding corn pollen in one of his excavations in a ditch-enclosed area. Excavations in a pond at the site also uncovered some amazing finds: large wooden carvings of a bird, bear, and cat. The remains of a structure were also found that he interpreted as a collapsed wooden platform that still held the remains of at least 300 people. Sears's work mapping an excavating all across the Fort Center site was important in recording this amazing site, even if some of his interpretations of the function of the site have been questioned by more recent archaeologists.



Entrance to the Ortona Indian Mound Park.

Much like Fort Center, the Ortona site is also characterized by interesting landscape features. Two linear canals connect the center of the site to the nearby Caloosahatchee River, and several large mounds are also found there. An artificial pond, burial mound, and linear earthworks have also been recorded over the years. The Ortona site has been impacted by sand mining and other destructive activities over the years, but this site still provides interesting insights into the people who once called this area on the northern edge of the Everglades home.

FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH IS ALMOST HERE!



Front of the 2016 poster

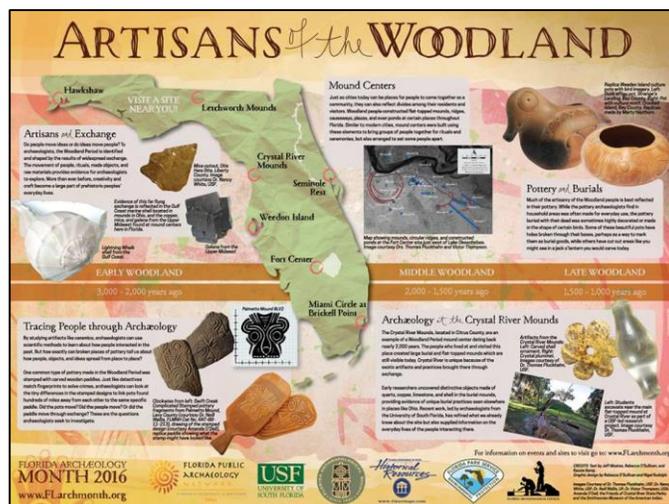
Every year in March, Florida celebrates its diverse heritage and buried (or submerged) past through Archaeology Month. Florida



Wood carving of an eagle found at Fort Center in 1926, on display at the Florida Museum of Natural History

Anthropological Society (FAS) chapters, archaeologists, heritage professionals, museums, historical societies, and interested members of the public come together to promote and celebrate archaeological sites and knowledge about the past through events, workshops, lectures, and public archaeology days. Another highlight of this month of archaeological celebration is the new poster that is developed every year to highlight a unique theme within Florida archaeology. Building on the timeline poster series established over the last few years, this year we will be highlighting the Woodland Period in Florida.

If Florida's first people, the Paleoindians, were explorers who blazed new trails and settled a new land, and the people who came after them (known as the Archaic People to archaeologists) were innovators who faced changes with new technological advancements, then the people of the Woodland Period were artisans who we can celebrate for their craft and creativity. From approximately 1000 BC to AD 1000, or from 3,000 to 1,000 years ago, Woodland People lived throughout Florida and shared their ideas and designs with other people throughout the southeast. This widespread exchange of people, ideas, rituals, craft, and raw materials is a hallmark of the Woodland Period, and an interesting avenue of study for archaeologists today.



Back of the 2016 poster

This year's poster highlights different aspects of creativity and exchange during the Woodland Period: pottery and burial goods, mound centers, trade goods, and the Crystal River archaeological site in Citrus County to name just a

few. To learn more about Woodland Period sites in your area you can visit go to the "Explore" page at www.fpan.us/werc or check out the Florida Archaeology Month website starting in March at www.FLarchmonth.org

SAVE THE DATE: CGCAS PICNIC

Please plan to join us on June 4th, 2016 from 11-4pm at John S Taylor Park in Largo for the annual CGCAS Picnic. More information to come in a future newsletter. Hope you can make it out!

UPCOMING EVENTS

LECTURE – The Past Contained: Florida's Prehistoric Pottery Tradition
Wednesday, February 24, 2016 from 7pm – 8pm

Pottery was an important part of Native American culture and has also become a valuable artifact for archaeologists today. In this presentation learn all about the Native American process for making pottery, how and why they used it, and what information archaeologists can get from studying these small pieces of the past.

WHERE: Safety Harbor Museum
 329 S Bayshore Blvd
 Safety Harbor, FL 34695

WORKSHOP – Archaeology Works: Maps
Saturday, February 27, 2016 from 10am – Noon

Archaeologists use maps, both old and new, in every aspect of what they do. Maps can reveal the location of a long-lost building, show hidden features of a prehistoric landscape, or even create a record for future researchers. Join archaeologists from the Florida Public Archaeology Network as they reveal some map mysteries from throughout the Tampa Bay area, then learn some compass skills so you can make a map of your own! Recommended for all ages.

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

EVENT – Fort Brooke Archaeology Day at the Tampa Bay History Center
Saturday, March 5 from Noon – 2pm

In 1980, construction workers in downtown Tampa made an unexpected discovery: As they dug the foundation of a new parking garage, they uncovered the remains of more than 100 U.S. soldiers and 42 Seminole Indians, dating from the 1830s and 1840s. They all once lived on or near Fort Brooke, arguably the genesis of modern-day Tampa. ***Re-Placing Fort Brooke***, a new exhibit opening Saturday, Feb. 20, in the Tampa Bay History Center's Touchton Map Gallery, uses cutting-edge technology to uncover the stories of Tampa's earliest residents. Presented in partnership with FPAN, visitors will be able to see the fort and the evolution of downtown Tampa as never before. In addition to early maps of Tampa's Garrison District and artifacts recovered from the site in the 1970s and 1980s, the exhibit will feature digitally-rectified overlays of the original fort. The History Center will host archaeologists from FPAN and students from the University of South Florida, who will offer hands-on, family-friendly activities related to urban archaeology in Tampa and the Fort Brooke exhibit.

WHERE: Tampa Bay History Center
801 Old Water Street
Tampa, FL

EVENT – Archaeology Academy
Saturday, March 12 from 10am – 1pm

Archaeology Academy at Weedon Island Preserve will engage the public through presentations and hands on activities. Come learn about the prehistoric people who made Weedon Island home through short presentations that are open to everyone. After the presentations you can also sign up for a special tour Weedon Island by canoe, hike to an archaeological site, practice laboratory methods that archaeologists use, or tour the Preserve and learn all about the plants Native Americans used in everyday life. Fee for each special activity is \$10.00 per participant and registration is required. Please only choose from one of the following activities as they will occur at the same time:

Plants and People Hike - Tour the Preserve and learn all about the plants Native Americans used in everyday life.

Archaeology Hike - Hike with an archaeologist to part of the Weedon Island archaeology site while learning all about the site and its history.

Weedon Island Pottery Lab - make exciting discoveries about the unique pottery found at Weedon Island using scientific lab methods.

Archaeo-Eco Canoe Tour - Maneuver canoes down mangrove lined trails through the preserve while learning how Native Americans used the vast fresh and saltwater resources surrounding Weedon Island.

To register go to: <http://goo.gl/myIRNS>

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

CGCAS LECTURE - Middle Woodland Complexity and Culture Change in Northwest Florida from a Domestic Perspective
Thursday, March 17, 2016 from 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Throughout the Eastern U.S., the Middle Woodland was a period of increased cultural complexity. This complexity is best identified in the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee River region of northwest Florida through the combined presence of Swift Creek Complicated-Stamped ceramics and early Weedon Island ceramic types along with nonlocal trade items, burial mounds, and evidence of elaborate mortuary ritual. The Otis Hare site (8LI172) is a freshwater shell midden on the east bank of the Apalachicola River occupied for over one thousand years, with the most intensive occupation during the Middle Woodland period (A.D. 300-650). The site is used as a case study to characterize the Middle Woodland and examine culture change in the river valley from a domestic perspective.

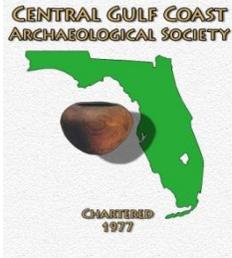
WHERE: Weedon Island Center
1800 Weedon Island Dr NE
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THE SOCIETY

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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