# Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

**A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society**
**www.cgcas.org**

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**January 2009**

Editor: David Burns

## January Meeting

## Thursday January 15th

**at**
**Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center**
**1800 Weedon Dr. NE, St. Petersburg, Fl 33702**

**7 – 8 PM.**

Pre-Clovis: True or False? The View from a Site in Marion County, Florida.

Barbara A. Purdy, Ph.D.

Clovis Point

This month's presentation features Barbara A. Purdy, Ph.D., Emerita Professor of Anthropology, University of Florida. Attempts to displace Clovis hunters as the earliest humans in the Western Hemisphere have met with fierce resistance. Evidence from the Container Corporation of America site will be presented that suggests people may have visited the site 25,000 years ago. Stone quarries, where high quality toolstone was utilized throughout all time periods, may be the only locations in the Americas where the abundance of flaking debris may offer clues to Pre-Clovis occupations This program is co-sponsored by the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center and is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is requested. For further information or to register, call (727) 453-6500.

# January Means Dues are Due

All memberships to CGCAS run from January to January. To join or renew you membership for the 2009 year, go to www.cgcas.org and follow the instructions at PayPal or mail your completed form and membership dues to our new post office box address: Membership Chair, P.O. Box 1563, Pinellas Park, FL 33780-1563. Membership rates can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

# Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage Speaker Series

The Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage has announced its 2009 Speaker Series. The theme of this year's program is "Bringing Florida Archaeology to Life". The Series begins on January 10th and runs through April 18th with venues throughout the state. Ryan J. Wheeler, Ph.D. and William B. Lees, Ph.D. will share introduction duties at the lectures. Due to space limitations only the first speaker of the Series will be presented at this time. The rest will follow in subsequent newsletters.

On **January 10th Kenneth E. Sassaman, Ph.D.** will speak on "*Archeological Insights on the Ancient Shell Works of the St. Johns River, Northeast Florida*". The lecture will be held at the Indian Temple Mound Museum City of Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park and Cultural Center located at 139 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach from 1:00 - 2:30 PM CST. For further information visit www.trailoffloridasindianheritage.org.

# CGCAS Lecture Series 2008-2009

Our lecture series for 2008-2009 includes a wide variety of topics and geographic areas: prehistoric, historic, and underwater archaeology conducted in Florida, the Caribbean, and the Yucatan. All the presentations are held at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center on the third Thursday of every month from September through April. The lectures begin at 7 pm and are free and open to the public. Further information will be presented in future newsletters regarding each month's presentation.

**January 15, 2009** – *Barbara Purdy*, Ph.D. – Pre-Clovis: True or False? The View from a Site in Marion County, Florida.
**February 19, 2009** – *Michael Russo*, Ph.D. - Discovering C.B. Moore's Lost Mounds and Rings in North Florida
**March 19, 2009 –***Uzi Baram*, PhD. – Looking for Angola: New Approaches & Evidence in the Search for an Early 19th Century Maroon Community on the Manatee River
**April 16, 2009 –** *Allan Meyers*, Ph.D. – Lost Hacienda: Reconstructing the Lives of Laborers on a Yucatan Plantation

# Archaeologists Explore Sunken Steamboat on First Coast

CRESCENT LAKE, FL -- On Crescent Lake, there are beautiful birds, turtles, and alligators. But a crew is looking for a different kind of alligator on the edge of the lake. A team of archaeologists and volunteers are working on a wreck of a steamboat. They want to know if it could be the Alligator which carried cargo and tourists down the St. Johns and Ocklawaha Rivers around the turn of the century.

Dan Smith was one of the half dozen people on the east side of Crescent Lake. He smiled and said, "This is fun. I've never done anything like this before. I'm trying to do my best not to get in the way of people who know what they're doing."

Smith is not an archaeologist but a retired meteorologist. However, he may be the man who knows the most about Alligator. He has researched steamboats and Alligator for about 15 years. He asked the staff at the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) in St. Augustine to help determine if the wreck on Crescent Lake is the wrecked Alligator that burned 99 years ago.

The LAMP crew donned wetsuits and took measurements of artifacts they found above and below the water. Most of the wreckage was in water that was ankle to chest deep. The most noticeable part of the wreckage was the boiler that stuck out of the water.

Chuck Meide, Director of LAMP, said, "We are probing into the mud. Every time we hit wood, we make a note of it. If we hit nothing, we make a note of it. And at the end of the day we'll plot out those positive and negative points."The archaeologists were mapping out the parts of the boat that were above and below the water's surface to come up with a visual of where the wreckage sits.

The Alligator's claim to fame was that well-known archaeologists Clarence Moore used the steamer in the 1890's while studying Native American sites in northeast Florida.

And now the boat that was used in archeological research a hundred years ago may be an archaeological site itself. Smith said, "I've been studying the boat for many years. It'd be nice to know where she wound up." *Posted 12/09/08 by Jessica Clark on firstcoastnews.com*

# Digital Archaeology: Databases

*By Jack Harvey*

Bob Cratchit was a database manager for Ebenezer Scrooge. The miserly old money man needed, nay, demanded precise counting of the paltry sums owing by his clients. Bob, wrapped in a warmish white comforter, sat on a high stool and added up Scrooge's wealth with ink pot and quill. Flipping through ledgers, he foretold who owed money, how much, and when due. There was no doubt whatever about that. Likewise we can be assured that computer database technology arose to sum money in giant corporate counting-houses.

Early electronic computers preceded the database concept, however. First we had specialized programs such as Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable and General Ledger. But gradually we realized these different functions had much in common and the idea arose of using common software for all. One 1968 package was IMS (Information Management System) from IBM. It was several more years before a DBMS (Data Base Management System) became commonly accepted as a general way to organize all kinds of data, from Scrooge's money to airline flights, driver licenses, library catalogs, stock markets, and yes, museum collections.

The intense efforts to perfect these software systems to manage basic data were intended for giant mainframe computers costing millions of dollars. And the software costs were similarly gigantic. Large corporations found themselves with permanent departments employing scores of experts devoted to the care and feeding of the giant computers.

Meanwhile enthusiasts found ways to build tiny computers in their garages and invented nerdy games like Pong, Space War, Pac-Man and Star Trek to play on them. As personal computers from Commodore, IBM and Apple sold by the thousands, real moneymakers appeared: VisiCalc and Lotus 1-2-3. These tiny computer tools greatly aided a common business problem: calculating the cost and scheduling of a project using a spreadsheet. Thus the tiny computers suddenly became much more than curious geek toys and actually useful in small business offices, suddenly selling by the tens of thousands.

As tiny computer spreadsheet programs matured, we found they could also do one of the most successful of various giant mainframe data management methods, the "relational database". This scheme organized data into columns of descriptions or attributes and rows of individual objects described by those attributes, ideally fitting the spreadsheet arrangement of rows and columns. So an archaeological relational database might have a row for each artifact. Each artifact would be described by attributes (in columns) such as kind, type, species, provenience, weight, color, and storage location. Each row of descriptive attributes for an object is a "relationship", hence the name.

| | Provenience | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Artifact ID Number | Test Unit | Level | Tool Type | Species | Weight Grams |
| 3729 | 4 | 3 | Gastropod Hammer B | Horse Conch | 59.4 |
| 3730 | 4 | 13 | Gastropod Hammer A | Lightning Whelk | 68.8 |
| 3731 | 3 | 4 | Net Weight | Ponderous Ark | 9.5 |
| 3732 | 1 | 6 | Gastropod Hammer, Unhafted | Lightning Whelk | 46.0 |
| 3734 | 4 | 5 | Spoon/Scoop | Lightning Whelk | 87.2 |
| 3735 | 2 | 10 | Bivalve Knife Scraper | Atlantic Surf Clam | 10.0 |
| 3736 | 2 | 11 | Gastropod Hammer/Pounder | Lightning Whelk | 92.7 |
| 3737 | 3 | 13 | Gastropod Hammer A | Lightning Whelk | 56.0 |
| 3738 | 3 | 7 | Gastropod Hammer, Unhafted | Lightning Whelk | 105.4 |
| 3739 | 1 | 3 | Gastropod Hammer, Indeterminate | Lightning Whelk | 199.8 |
| 3740 | 3 | 14 | Columella Hammer, Single Ended | Lightning Whelk | 35.0 |
| 3741 | 2 | 1 | Gastropod Hammer, Unhafted | Horse Conch | 89.9 |
| 3742 | 2 | 10 | Gastropod Hammer B | Horse Conch | 57.9 |

The simple database example shown here is how part of an archaeological database of tools might look. This isn't a useful table to publish in a *Florida Anthropologist* article. It's just a raw listing of some of what was found in an archaeological dig. (The full archaeological database would of course include all tools found.) By storing the raw data in an organized way, its entry and maintenance can be standardized and controlled. However, this is only half of relational database technology.

The other half is report generation – automatic creation of significant and useful summary reports from all the raw data. An added advantage is that data updates and corrections appear in the summaries automatically.

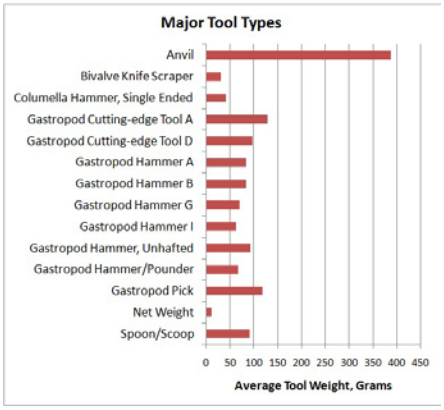
1970 mainframe database technology produced several methods for defining or specifying the practical summary reports that make a database useful. One that eventually predominated was Structured Query Language or SQL (often pronounced Squirrel) and most modern database systems use this advanced computer programming language. Microsoft's Access relational database system for personal computers includes SQL, as do most other competitive packages.

Does this mean that an archaeologist wanting to use a database on a PC needs to buy expensive software? Do we need to be programmers and speak Squirrel? No, most PCs include some kind of spreadsheet program, such as Excel or Works Spreadsheet. These usually don't provide SQL but instead offer mouse-actuated ways to create useful summary reports. Excel calls them PivotTables and you use the database column names (attributes) to define a specific summary report.

| | Test Unit | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Tool Type* | *1* | *2* | *3* | *4* | *Totals* |
| Anvil | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Bivalve Knife Scraper | | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| Columella Hammer, Single Ended | 10 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 40 |
| Columella Hammer/Pounder | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Dipper/Vessel | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Gastropod Cutting-edge Tool A | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Gastropod Hammer A | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| Gastropod Hammer B | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| Gastropod Hammer F | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Gastropod Hammer G | | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Gastropod Hammer I | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Net Weight | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| Pendent | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Point | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Spoon/Scoop | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| *Totals:* | 16 | 22 | 27 | 32 | 97 |

The table "Tool Type Counts by Test Unit" shown here is a summary report automatically produced from the database example using its Test Unit and Tool Type columns. This table shows the tool counts but weight totals could be shown too.

And the same simplistic example database can also produce tables of "Tool Types by Species" or "Tool Types by Test Unit Level", showing counts or weights.



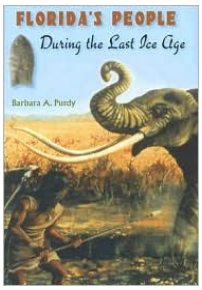

These spreadsheet programs can automatically produce bar charts (and many other graphical presentations) to characterize what was found. The bar chart example here displays average weight, also computed automatically.

A realistic archaeology dig database might have several other relationships such as storage location, laboratory analysis page number, dates, etc. The same simple spreadsheet-based database software also supports going backward from summary table result cells to automatically locate the items contributing to a specific result, speeding additional study or error correction.

Summary tables often expose flaws in the original laboratory data or in keying into the computer. For example, a net weight might be identified as made from Lightning Whelk, an unlikely combination. The database software can quickly expose relevant page numbers and storage locations to resolve the question.

Students have long been the Bob Crachits of archaeology and anthropology, searching through all the blurry laboratory analysis pages of dig material to total with pocket calculators the many sums needed for a publishable table. Now by using their basic computer skills to record the analyses in databases, they can produce needed results in a flash. Instead of becoming computer programmers, they can learn about PivotTables in "Excel 2007 for Dummies". Jack can be contacted at jakharve@earthlink.net.

# In Print




*Barbara Purdy's Latest Book*

The time and place of the arrival of the first humans in the Western Hemisphere and their spread throughout the Americas has been a fiercely debated issue for decades. *Florida's People During the Last Ice Age* documents the indisputable evidence of the spread of human populations into Florida nearly 14,000 years ago.

Other syntheses of Florida archaeology tend to gloss over the Paleoindian period. Barbara Purdy is the first to offer, in a single work, a summary of more than one hundred years of research on Florida's Paleoindian occupation. She also provides dates, radiocarbon information, and thorough, succinct overviews of the principal known archaeological sites for this era.

No other source offers such unique site summaries; indeed some are published here for the first time anywhere. Purdy is the first to present all the dates, radiocarbon and other, for the earliest archaeological sites in Florida in a single work. In discussing the still unresolved issue of whether people were in the Western Hemisphere, particularly Florida, at an even earlier date, she recommends new technologies and expertise that could shed light on this enduring mystery.

# FAS Membership

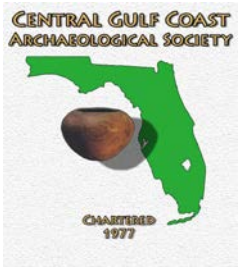
The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources and community education. Membership is made up of both professional and avocational archaeologists. Benefits of membership include the journal *The Florida Anthropologist*, the *FAS Newsletter* and participation in the annual meeting in May. More information and membership forms can be found on the web site www.fasweb.org or by writing to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 13191, Pensacola, FL 32591. Dues are: Student - $15; Regular and Institutional - $30; Family - $35; Sustaining - $100; Patron - $500; Benefactor - $2500 or more.

## CGCAS Officers\Directors

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| President | Bob Austin | P.O. Box 2818, Riverview, FL 33568 | (813)677-2280 |
| Vice Pres | Shanna Drwiega | 917 W. Woodland Ave, Tampa, Fl 33603 | (813)383-9182 |
| Secretary | Cindy Martin | 3412 Forest Bridge Cir. Brandon, Fl 33511 | (813)654-4828 |
| Treasurer | Cheryl Shaughnessy | 6100 62nd Ave. N, Pinellas Park, 33781 | (727)772-6758 |
| Directors | Bart McLeod | 2412 Butte Ave., New Port Richey, FL 34653 | (727)815-8749 |
| | Marcie Connors | 19327 Wind Dancer St., Lutz, FL 33558 | (813)920-4198 |
| | Karin Lovik | 1225 Jeffords St. Apt 225A, Clearwater, FL | (727)543-6912 |
| | Jeff Moates | 624 19th St. W, Bradenton, FL 35205 | (813)396-2325 |
| | Linda Allred | 5251 42nd Ave N., St. Petersburg, Fl 33709 | (727)526-7885 |
| | Chris Hardy | 1668 Nantucket Court, Palm Harbor, Fl 34683 | (727)733-3636 |
| Membership | Karin Lovik | 1225 Jeffords St. Apt. 225A, Clearwater, Fl | (727)543-6912 |
| Newsletter | David Burns | 15128 Springview St, Tampa, FL 33624 | (813)968-7910 |
| | | e-mail: daveburns@prodigy.net | |
| Editorial Assistants | | Dorrine Burns and Bob Austin | |

# The Society

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.




**Central Gulf Coast**
**Archaeological Society**
P.O. Box 1563,
Pinellas Park, FL 33780-1563

# 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 Karin Lovik 1225 Jeffords St., Apt 225A, Clearwater, FL.

Dues

| | |
|---|---|
| Regular | $20.00 |
| Student | 10.00 |
| Family | 25.00 |
| Life | 150.00 |