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# Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

[www.cgcas.org](http://www.cgcas.org)



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2009



Editor: David Burns

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## February Meeting

### Thursday February 19th

at

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

**7 – 8 PM.**

Discovering C.B. Moore's Lost Mounds and "Enclosures" in North Florida.



*Mike Russo, Ph.D. National Park Service*

Work in the panhandle of Florida by the National Park Service has identified five large ring middens and five mounds lost to the archaeological world since 1902 when C.B. Moore looted the mounds for their burial pottery. These sites represent the only extant Weedon Island and Swift Creek village/ceremonial complexes left along Florida's rapidly developing northwest coast, and as such, present opportunities for gaining new insights into patterns of settlement and spiritual life. A discussion will be presented of the problems that hounded teams of archaeologists for years in their searches for these long-lost sites. This program, co-sponsored by CGCAS and the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center and is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is requested. Call 727-453-6500 to register and for further information.

## 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 began on January 10<sup>th</sup> and runs through April 18<sup>th</sup> with venues throughout the state. Ryan J. Wheeler, Ph.D. and William B. Lees, Ph.D. will share introduction duties at the lectures.

**February 21, 2009 1:00-2:30PM**, Charlotte County Historical Center - **Dr. John A. Gifford**, Director, Little Salt Spring Archaeological Site, University of Miami Rosentiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science on "Little Salt Spring - A Unique Prehistoric Underwater Site".

**March 10, 2009 6:00-8:00PM**, South Florida Museum, Bradenton - **Dr. Mary Glowacki**, Archaeology Supervisor, Public Lands Archaeology, Bureau of Archaeological Research on "The Anhaica Apalache and the De Soto Expedition: What Are the Facts?".

**March 21, 2009 1:00-2:30PM**, Collier County Historical Museum, Naples - **Dr. Nancy M. White**, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida on "Adventures in Northwest Florida Jungle Archaeology".

**March 26, 2009 1:00-2:30PM**, Museum of Florida Art and Culture, South Florida Community College, Avon Park - **Christopher M. Still**, Florida Heritage Artist .

**April 18, 2009 2:00-4:30PM**, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, Miami - **Dr. James J. Miller** on "Latest Research in the Bahamas" and **Robert S. Carr** on "The Bahamas Legacy: New Discoveries in the Northern Bahamas".

## 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.

**February 19, 2009** - *Michael Russo*, Ph.D. - Discovering C.B. Moore's Lost Mounds and Enclosures in North Florida.

**March 19, 2009** - *Uzi Baram*, Ph.D. - Looking for Angola: New Approaches & Evidence in the Search for an Early 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Dig Into the Past at Archaeology Day



Take an exciting journey into ancient cultures with free archaeology-themed activities and special demonstrations at Weedon Island Preserve's "A Pottery Potlatch - Archaeology Day" Sunday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Preserve is located at 1800 Weedon Drive N.E., in St. Petersburg.

What is A Pottery Potlatch? The term means a gathering or festival practiced by indigenous, or native, people with the goal to give away gifts or share knowledge. The main purpose of this potlatch Archaeology Day is to share knowledge about the ancient cultures that once lived in the southeastern region of America.

During the event, amateur and professional archaeologists will have a rare opportunity to see pottery demonstrations and firings, ceramic collections and prehistoric technology demonstrations. Visitors of all ages will enjoy activities that include making a pottery pendant and bowl. Hands-on fun means learning about throwing with an atlatl, which is a bone or wood shaft implement held in one hand and used to propel a spear. Younger visitors will love acting like archaeologists as they sift through dirt at a modern dig to find artifacts.

Visitors wanting to dig deeper into the Preserve's history are invited to attend an informative program at 1 p.m. called "Breaking the Mould: New Views on the Meaning of Weeden Island". Dr. David Brose will discuss regional Weeden Island cultural connections and look at new data and analyses relating to Weeden (alternative spelling) Island as a set of regional cultures. This new perspective tells the importance of change and interaction among Woodland cultures across much of eastern North America. Registration is required for this program by calling (727) 453-6500.

## Celebrate Florida Archaeology Month 2009

Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. Join us as we celebrate our 3rd Florida Archaeology Month and learn what's happening in archaeology in the Tampa Bay area. March is designated as "Florida Archaeology Month," and special programs are planned statewide to recognize the importance archaeology plays in informing the public about the diverse history and prehistory in the state. At Weedon Island Preserve, the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society will host a display of their recent research in St. Petersburg.

**Grand Opening of the History Mound Trail:** Guided Hikes: 9:00 am - 10:00 am and 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Education Services Staff and Volunteers, Environmental Lands Division.

Join us on a guided hike of the new History Mound Trail as Center staff interprets the early prehistory of a shell mound while discussing the colorful, recent history of Weedon Island Preserve. This new half-mile hiking trail provides excellent educational opportunities as it combines the beauty of several seldom seen natural communities with the Preserve's rich cultural heritage. Previously inaccessible, half of the trail provides visitors a close-up view of scrubby flatwoods and xeric hammock/shell mound communities. On the other half, hikers follow the footsteps of others along a road created in the 1930s.

**What Weedon Island Teaches Us about How to Live on This Planet:** Lecture: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Brent R. Weisman, Ph.D., Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc. Brent Weisman, president of the newly formed non-profit organization Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, discusses how the value of archaeological research helps us understand the present.

Enjoy Native American crafts, activities and demonstrations, and the Center's exhibit gallery, Connecting People and Place, depicting prehistoric, historic, and present life on Tampa Bay. Bring your family and spend the day with us at Weedon Island Preserve. Enjoy a picnic lunch under our shady oaks and discover hidden secrets along our interpretative trail. Then head back to the Center for more archaeology fun. All event activities are free and open to the public. Recommended for all ages. Contact: [Call \(727\)453-6500 for more information.](tel:7274536500)

## Items in the News

### New Tampa Bay History Center Opens

On Saturday January 17, 2009, the new Tampa Bay History Center opened to the public. It is a 60,000-square-foot, four-story museum in the Channelside district of Tampa. Visitors can follow the 12,000-year history of Florida by learning about the Native Americans who lived here prior to European contact, the Spanish Conquistadors, pioneers, presidents, sport legends, and railroad tycoons. There are exhibits about the places and people who shaped the Tampa Bay area. The History Center also has a stunning atrium, interactive and immersive exhibits, theaters, map gallery, research center, event hall, museum store and the Columbia Café. The history of the Tampa Bay is brought to life within its walls.

The Tampa Bay History Center is located at 801 Old Water Street in Tampa. It is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+), youths (13-17), students w/ID, \$7 for children (4-12), children under 3 are free. For more information visit [info@tampabayhistorycenter.org](mailto:info@tampabayhistorycenter.org).

### University of Miami receives grant from the Selby Foundation for Little Salt Springs

The William G. Selby and Marie Selby Foundation has awarded the University of Miami (UM) a grant in the amount of \$100,000 to manage and operate the Little Salt Spring (LSS) archeological and ecological preserve in North Port, Sarasota County, Florida. LSS is a valuable prehistoric site due to its great age and exceptional preservation of ancient organic material.

The grant from the Selby Foundation will help support the initial site development and construction of a multi-purpose, hurricane-resistant building for teaching, research, visitors and storage.

The proposed site development and expansion of the facilities will allow the University to increase site research and excavation and will accommodate many more Sarasota County-based visitors, giving UM the opportunity to share this important archaeological resource with the community, while developing an important scientific and educational hub for university students, researchers, and other academics.

### Chief seeks recognition for Panzacola Indians

Native Chief George B. Dodge, Sr. is on a mission to acknowledge the panhandle's first settlers with a statue at the foot of the Five Flags display north of the Pensacola Bay Bridge. The statue would depict an Indian man, woman and child to symbolize the Panzacola Indians, for whom Pensacola is named. Panzacolas lived near the bay when the Spanish arrived in 1559.

Dodge's recent push for a native statue centers on the city's plans for a 450th anniversary celebration this year, marking 450 years since Spanish conquistador Don Tristan de Luna is said to have founded Pensacola. Private fundraisers, along with contributions from city and county governments, will have a monument built honoring de Luna at Plaza de Luna in downtown Pensacola.

### Mission San Luis Dig

Archaeologists at Mission San Luis are in the final process of completing an excavation that began in early 2007. Officials say they started the dig to clear out land for their new visitor center and stumbled upon building fragments and artifacts

dating back as far as 1656. Senior Archaeologist, Jerry Lee, says it takes about two years to dig, float, and examine the historical pieces.

He says each piece unlocks information about how early settlers may have lived centuries ago. "To me the most exciting thing is finding the archaeological signature of buildings that were here 300-350 years ago," says Lee. Mission San Luis representatives say many of the artifacts they find will be featured in the new visitor center, which is slated to open later this year.

### National Museum of the American Indian Launches Its Collections Online

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian has launched its online collections. The ever-expanding digital access to the museum's 800,000-plus items includes more than 5,500 photographs; eventually it will be one of the largest Native American online collections. It is available at [www.americanindian.si.edu/searchcollections](http://www.americanindian.si.edu/searchcollections)

The launch is a milestone in the museum's "Fourth Museum" project to bring the collections to those who may not have the opportunity to visit the museum's three buildings in New York City, Suitland, Md., and Washington, D.C. The launch is also in keeping with Smithsonian Secretary Wayne Clough's strategic planning initiative to serve the Smithsonian's growing number of virtual visitors and fulfill its mission to increase and diffuse knowledge.

"As the museum on the National Mall approaches its fifth anniversary (Sept. 21), our promise to reach out to tribal communities, schools, libraries, museums, indeed to all throughout the world is being realized," said Kevin Gover (Pawnee/Comanche), director of the museum. "Though we have a long way to go before completing this project, I am pleased to offer the first phase of our fourth museum—our museum without walls." The goal of the project is to include as many items as possible on the Web. As staff research is completed, items will be published online.

During the course of the project, curators unearthed new evidence about the collections' origins. Though George Gustav Heye (1874-1957) is often credited with building the museum's collections (approximately 85% were acquired during his lifetime), thousands of previously unidentified individuals including farmers, missionaries, soldiers and teachers also contributed. Their stories provide fascinating details behind the objects and open up new research possibilities for investigating the relationships between Native and non-Native people and the political, economic and social histories throughout the Western Hemisphere.

[http://www.nmai.si.edu/press/releases/20090129\\_NMAIcollectionsonline.pdf](http://www.nmai.si.edu/press/releases/20090129_NMAIcollectionsonline.pdf)

### FAS Membership

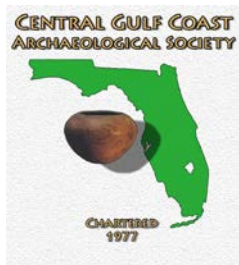
The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources and community education. Membership is made up of both professional and avocational archaeologists. Benefits of membership include the journal *The Florida Anthropologist*, 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](http://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
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		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

