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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 2010



Editor: David Burns

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## February Meeting

### Thursday 18th

at

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

**7 – 8 PM.**

**Finding Bimini: Florida-Caribbean Connections**



*Robert S. Carr, M.S., Director, Archaeological and Historical Conservancy*

In 1513, Ponce De Leon sailed from Puerto Rico to discover and claim Bimini for the King of Spain. Historical documents reveal Bimini was actually Florida. How did knowledge of Florida make its way to European explorers in the early sixteenth century prior to its “discovery”? This presentation examines both prehistoric and early historic contacts between Florida, the Bahamas, and Cuba, and what, if any, influences affected indigenous cultural development in the region.

This program is 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.

## CGCAS Lecture Series for 2009-2010

We have another interesting line up of speakers for the coming year. All these presentations will be at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. The dates are the third Thursday of the month with the lectures beginning at 7 pm. They are free and open to the public. Further information will be presented in future newsletters regarding each month's presentation.

**March 18, 2010** – *Bill Marquardt, Ph.D.*, Shell Mounds in the Southeastern U.S.: Middens, Monuments, Temple Mounds, Rings, or Works?

**April 15, 2010** – *Alison Elgart, Ph.D.*, Life and Death in Southeastern Florida during the Late Archaic

### Deadline Approaching

All memberships to CGCAS run from January to January. The deadline for renewing this year's dues is April 1<sup>st</sup>. To join or renew your membership for the 2010 year, go to [www.cgcas.org](http://www.cgcas.org) or mail your dues to: Membership Chair, P.O. Box 1563, Pinellas Park, FL 33780-1563.

### March is Archaeology Month

March is Archaeology month in Florida and there will be many activities throughout the state. Florida Archaeology Month 2010 celebrates Florida's mound building traditions. This theme explores American Indian mounds, including how mounds are defined and constructed, mound functions, and the relationship of Florida sites to broader Southeastern mound building cultures. More information about local events can be found on the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) Website and on local FAS chapter Websites that can be accessed from the main FAS Webpage: <http://www.fasweb.org/index.html>

Plan on attending these local events:

March 6<sup>th</sup> is Archeology Day at Maximo Point from 10am -3pm. Both FPAN and CGCAS will have information tables.

March 20<sup>th</sup> is Archaeology Day at Weedon Island. There will be many hands-on activities and Native American Technology demonstrations throughout the day.

### Rancho Regattas

The Florida Public Archeology Network (FPAN) is presenting the Rancho Regattas which will explore the history and lives of Florida's fishing past. These events will take place on the following dates:

April 18<sup>th</sup> DeSoto National Memorial, sponsored by the Friends of DeSoto

May 15<sup>th</sup> Weedon Island Preserve, sponsored by Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE).

June 19<sup>th</sup> Indian Mound Park or Lemon Bay Park, sponsored by the Friends of Lemon Bay Park.

## Our Condolences

It is with sadness to report the passing of Frank Hoff on January 28, 2010. Our condolences go to his wife Nancy and family. Frank was a founding member of CGCAS in 1977. He had an avid interest in archaeology and in 2007 he and his wife Nancy published the book "Shell Artifacts".

Frank was a founder of Aqua Farms, Inc. He was directly involved in aquatic research, applied aquaculture and aquarium industry since 1966.

He was honored with a scholarship in his name by Florida Aquaculture Association, to send a student to college to pursue a degree in the aquaculture field.

There will be a celebration of Frank's life on February 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm at the home of Sandy Holloway and Andy Drombolis. Their address is 11590 74<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. in Seminole.

Nancy has requested that donations be made to the following organizations: The Archaeological Conservancy, 5301 Central Ave. NE, Suite 902, Albuquerque, NM 87108-1517 or, FAA Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1519, Winter Haven, FL 3388.

### Of Interest

**Where did DeSoto spend Christmas?** A February 13, 2010, story from Tallahassee.com reports on the continuing search in Tallahassee, Florida, for the 1539-1540 winter encampment of the army of conquistador Hernando de Soto. Read it at <http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20100213/NEWS01/2120350/Where-did-de-Soto-spend-Christmas>

### Archaeological 'time machine' extends back 50,000 years

Australian researchers have helped produce a new radiocarbon calibration tool which could answer key questions in human evolution. Read the February 11, 2010, story from ScienceDaily at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/02/100211111549.htm>

### Beneath Florida springs, an ancient world

Construction project uncovers mother lode of relics. Read the February 5, 2010, story from The Orlando Sentinel at <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/lake/os-salt-springs-ancient-site-discovered-20100204.0.7030703.story>

### The Influence of Jacques Le Moyne's Illustrations on Interpreting Florida's Past

Read Jeff Klinkenberg's article in the February 7, 2010 St. Petersburg Times about Le Moyne and the search for Fort Caroline along the St. Johns River at <http://www.tampabay.com/features/humaninterest/a-1564-visitor-to-florida-leaves-a-trail-of-mystery/1071075>

### Original Florida-Alabama State line rediscovered

For many years, the original state line was lost. Now a Tuscaloosa man working with Auburn University has helped rediscover it. Read the account of this work at <http://www.tampabay.com/incoming/original-florida-alabama-mound-line-rediscovered/1073236>

## Everglades City Field Trip

The field trip to Everglades City planned for March 12- 14 has been postponed. Stay tuned.

### DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY: Seeing Underground

By Jack Harvey

We've been talking about "Seeing the Unseeable" and "Seeing Underground". "Seeing Shapes" seems easy, but is it? A South Florida archaeologist picks up a whelk shell and looks for signs it was used as a tool. Wear marks, hafting holes and notches are found by rotating the shell to see it from varying angles. The archeologist doesn't just look at the whelk on the ground or a tray; *he picks it up* so he can turn it and see all sides.

A multi-directional view is so important that many predators have brains that can fuse the images from two eyes to show depth. A popular 19<sup>th</sup> century parlor device was the *stereoscope*. Two photographs were taken of a scene from slightly different angles. The stereoscope displays these so that the left eye sees only the left image while the right eye sees only the right one. Our brain fuses the two to produce an illusion of depth. This illusion can be quite striking and often useful, but viewing with the stereoscope, you can't turn an object around to see the back of it. You're strictly limited to the viewpoint of the original stereo photo. *Unless you use a computer.*



*"See 3D image of the Whelk hammer by crossing your eyes slightly to merge the two photos until a clear stereo view is seen between them. Vary the page distance for eye comfort."*

If the full shape, all sides of the object is stored in a computer database, software can generate a stereo view of the object as seen from *any* direction. You can then rotate the object image and examine all sides as though you were holding the real object in your hand.

If an archaeologist has such a shape database of a puzzling artifact, he can email it to a colleague in, say, Mexico to get her opinion. If her computer is equipped with compatible software, she can examine the artifact almost as well as if she picks it up and holds it in her hand.

Is this possible? All the pieces needed exist today. One of the primary tools needed has been pioneered for archaeology by Lori Collins and Travis Doering at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Their "Alliance for Integrated Spatial Technologies" (AIST) has used ultra-precise laser distance measuring equipment (and others) to map important archaeological objects, such as the Miami Circle, so that their 3D shapes are stored in a database and can be examined at will. To learn much more about this important work, see their terrific Web site at: <http://aist.cas.usf.edu/>

Displaying rotatable digital images of shapes takes much more than a parlor stereoscope. The Collins and Doering AIST site links to: [http://research.famsi.org/3D\\_imaging/index.php](http://research.famsi.org/3D_imaging/index.php)

Visit this to see an animated example of how an archaeological object can be rotated, and the lighting shifted to show fine detail and shapes on all sides, top and bottom. Software to try

this on YOUR (robust) computer is available from the commercial software firm Geomagic, Inc. The FAMSI site above includes a link to the free demo software at Geomagic.com.

The shape you will see on your computer is NOT a photograph of the object. It is an image generated from precise laser measurements of the object's shape. It appears to be a solid object, having surface indentations, curvature and projections for the facial features (eyes, nose, mouth, etc.) with shadows.

But those shadows are software generated, not real. By adjusting the program, you can move the apparent light source causing the shadows to shift, just as an archaeologist might rotate a real object in a bright light to best see its shape aided by moving shadows. You can't do that with a photograph. This is not an animated movie, either, where the changes are pre-recorded. You choose the changes you want.

The database file describing the object's shape is far larger than the usual .JPG photograph – too large for most email systems. So a casual email to the Mexican colleague won't happen today. The needed digital bandwidth is coming though.

The future for Seeing Shapes is bright. A significant market is developing for "eBooks", computer files offered over the Web for millions of popular texts. As digital reader devices such as *Kindle* (Amazon) and *Nook* (Barnes & Noble) improve, we will see full color, animation and stereo images and eventually rotatable shapes like Geomagic offers today. An eBook guide to Giza will allow you to stroll leisurely around the Great Sphinx as the sun rises over the Nile.

The *Florida Anthropologist* will be published this way, allowing each of us to "pick up" and examine notable artifacts in its academic reports. Yes, there will be much wailing about abandoning traditional Gutenberg-era printing, but since a major part of the FAS budget supports this obsolete machinery, simple economics will dictate modernization. Society newsletters are leading the way with instant Internet distribution cutting costs while adding color. How did you get your newsletter?

## 2010 FAS Annual Meeting

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) is excited to host the 62nd annual FAS meeting on May 7-9, 2010 at the Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers. Accommodations for FAS 2010 will be at the new Hotel Indigo, just a block from the Harborside Event Center and a short walk to the Caloosahatchee River.

Check the FAS website [www.fasweb.org](http://www.fasweb.org) for further information.

## FAS Membership

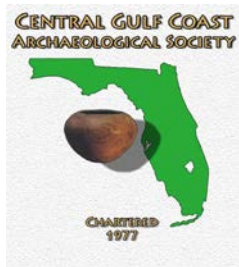
The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources and community education. Membership is made up of both professional and avocational archaeologists. Benefits of membership include the journal *The Florida Anthropologist*, 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 - \$1000; 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 62 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. N, Lot63, 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
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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

