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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 2012



Editor: David Burns

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## February Meeting

### Thursday February 16th

at

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

7 – 8 PM.



**Lawrence A. Clayton, Ph.D**

*The Other Face of the Conquest: Bartolomé de las Casas, Protector of American Indians*

The “face” of the Spanish conquest in our part of the world is represented by such unsavory characters as Pánfilo de Narváez and Hernando de Soto. Next year we commemorate the discovery of North America by Juan Ponce de León, hardly a much less savory character who participated in the brutal subjugation of the Taino peoples on the island of Española and the conquest of Puerto Rico. When he came ashore on the peninsula of Florida early in April, 1513, he was looking for more Indians to enslave to replenish the dying Indians of Española and Puerto Rico, and gold. At the same time, a priest, who would later become a Dominican friar, Bartolomé de las Casas, was marching with Narváez in the conquest of Cuba. But Las Casas was caught in a difficult dilemma: as he witnessed the destruction of the Indians through unbridled greed and military conquest, much of it rationalized by the necessity of converting the Tainos and Arawaks to the faith, he gradually questioned the justification and ethos of the Spanish conquest. He turned on the conquest with a passion, became the universal protector of the Indians, and devoted his life to Christian justice and ideals as he saw them. He was the quintessential “anti-Conquistador” and I believe represents a face of the epoch that is just as important, and perhaps even more long lasting, than the exploits of the conquistadors we are all familiar with.

Please pre-register for this event by visiting [www.pinellascountyextension.org](http://www.pinellascountyextension.org), clicking the “Online Registration” button, and then choosing the “Weedon Island” tab. You can also call 727-453-6500 to register.

## This Month's Speaker

Lawrence A. Clayton, Ph.D., received his doctorate from Tulane University in 1972. His research interests include Latin America conquest and early settlement; the Andean region; Cuba, and the history of the Christian church. In 2011 he published the book *Bartolomé de las Casas and the Conquest of the Americas*.

His current projects include : Apostle to the Indians: the life of Bartolomé de las Casas for Cambridge University Press in 2012; *Bartolomé de las Casas in Documents* for Bedford/St. Martin's, and the air war over the Bay of Pigs, April, 1961.

## Sunday Brunch



On Sunday January 29, 2012, several members gathered at the home of Evelyn Kuttler and enjoyed an evening of good food and camaraderie. Evelyn has been very supportive of CGCAS and allowed an excavation to be undertaken at her home over ten years ago. The property is in the Bayshore Homes area where CGCAS has been involved in the Bayshore Homes project under the direction of Bob Austin.

## The 2011-2012 Lecture Series

3/15/2012 **James Strange**, Ph.D. "Some Recent Surveys and Archaeology in the Galilee of Israel"  
4/19/2012 **Christopher Altes**, M.A. "Going with the Flow: Circum-Caribbean Currents, Trade, and Colonization"

## Dues are Due Reminder

The annual payment of membership dues for CGCAS is in January of each year. Your continued membership and support of CGCAS is

appreciated. It allows the Society to continue to provide the important programs, events, and research that make people aware of Florida's rich heritage. Dues can be paid until April 1, 2012. After that date members will be removed from the mailing lists.

Dues can be paid through Paypal or by mailing a check to Cheryl Shaughnessy, the Membership Secretary at: P.O. Box 1563, Pinellas Park, FL 33780

## Mark your Calendar

**March 3, 2012** Archaeology Month event at Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center.

**March 31/April 1** CGCAS is planning an overnight fieldtrip to Astor, FL to visit Hontoon Island. Dr. Ken Sassaman of the University of Florida will be the guide and site interpreter on the island on Saturday. Sunday morning it is planned to meet for breakfast at Old Spanish Sugar Mill Restaurant at De Leon Springs State Park for fresh pancakes. Then plan on a visit to Pat's Island in Ocala National Forest to walk off your breakfast. If you would like to attend this trip, contact Linda Allred at [lallred@mybluelight.com](mailto:lallred@mybluelight.com).

**June 9, 2012** The Annual CGCAS picnic will be held at Maximo Park. We have reserved the large pavilion for the date. Further information will be forthcoming.

## Excavation Opportunity

March is Archaeology Month in Florida. As part of the events taking place at Weedon Island on March 3, CGCAS will be doing a small excavation during which visitors can observe archaeologists at work and also participate in the process.

A couple of years ago while Weedon Island maintenance people were digging a hole for a fence post, they uncovered a cache of large pieces of chert that appeared to have been internationally buried there in the past.

In preparation for the main excavation on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the area of the excavation the 1-X-2-meter unit will be staked out and excavation will begin on Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> we will return and finish the excavation and backfill our unit. Help will be needed on all

three Saturdays. If you want to volunteer, the crew will meet at the AWIARE Research Station, 1500 Weedon Island Dr., NE, at 10:00 AM.



### **Tarpon Springs Survey**

On Saturday February 4, 2012 several members of CGCAS assisted archaeologist Phyllis Kolianos in doing a survey of a vacant lot in downtown Tarpon Springs, FL. In late 1800's to early 1900's, two large houses existed on the property. Five shovel tests were dug and yielded mostly rusted iron, broken glass and other historic artifacts. The most enigmatic find was a sherd of Weedon Island pottery. The results of this survey are being accessed and further work is being planned there.

### **Kudos**

CGCAS member **Sharlene O'Donnell** was recently accepted into the Doctorate Program at the University of Florida. We who have had the opportunity to work with her have seen her dedication and hard work so we know that she will do well in her chosen field of study.

### **AWIARE Canoe Update**

As most of you are aware, the attempts to conserve the canoe has had its share of challenges. The first major challenge was the removal of the canoe which was successfully accomplished a year ago March 1, 2011. Once the canoe was placed in its custom-built conservation tank and the salt water was removed, the next big problem arose when we had a major algae bloom. Several efforts to get rid of the algae were not successful. It was later learned that alga seems to thrive on Polyethylene Glycol (PEG). It was also observed that PEG is corrosive and corroded the screen and the metal connectors in the pump.

However, we are progressing despite the setbacks and learning as we go. AWIARE is

purchasing a stainless steel pump and then will resume the filtration process and adding of PEG.

### **Stone Age and Primitive Arts Festival**

The fifth annual Stone Age and Primitive Arts Festival will take place at Ochlockonee River State Park Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> to February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Attendees will gain insight into how early man lived and worked. There will be demonstrations of flint knapping, the art of projectile point fashioning; along with deer hide brain tanning, bone, wood, and antler carving. There will also be Old World and New World bow and arrow construction, basket weaving, and early pottery to be observed.

Competitions in atlatl throwing and primitive archery are scheduled. An auction will be held on Saturday to auction off donated artwork.

Ochlockonee River State Park is located 4 miles southwest of Sopchoppy off US Highway 319. Its address is 429 State Park Road Sopchoppy, FL 32358. For further information contact David Garcia, Park Service Specialist at (850)962-2771 or at [DavidGarcia@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:DavidGarcia@dep.state.fl.us). Visit the website <http://www.knapfest.com>.

### **FAS Annual Meeting**

On May 11-13, 2012, the 64<sup>th</sup> FAS Annual Meeting is being hosted by the Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee (PAST). The theme for the event is "Forever Changed, La Florida" to spotlight Florida's Spanish colonial heritage and to recognize the significance of Florida's Spanish colonial heritage beginning with Ponce de Leon's 1513 landing and ending when Florida became a territory of the United States in 1821.

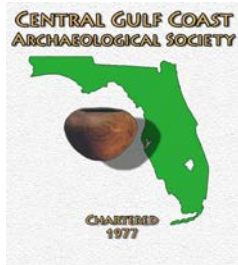
The meeting will be held at Mission San Luis, 2100 W. Tennessee St. Tallahassee. Owned by the State of Florida, San Luis is now a National Landmark with a living history village based upon decades of meticulous archaeological research. San Luis boasts a recently constructed state-of-the-art conference facility and museum. Further information and registration forms are available by visiting the FAS website: [www.fasweb.org](http://www.fasweb.org).

### CGCAS Officers/Directors

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## 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

## 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 h P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL

	Dues
Regular	\$20.00
Student	10.00
Family	25.00
Life	150.00