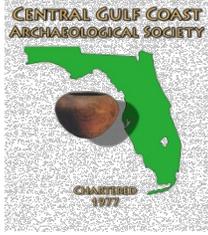

CENTRAL GULF COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY
WWW.CGCAS.ORG



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY, 2014

36 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE

EDITOR: BECKY O'SULLIVAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014, 7:00 PM

AT

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



Victor D. Thompson, Ph.D.
University of Georgia

The Ebb and Flow of Life at Late Archaic Shell Rings along the Georgia Coast

This talk explores the nature of shell rings, which are sites that are large arcuate or circular piles of shell arranged around a central plaza area. These sites are perhaps some of the most intriguing features of the Late Archaic coastal world. Archaeologists have interpreted these in various ways from villages to monumental architecture. However, most of these explanations are derived from investigations of specific sites without placing them within the broader landscape. This talk evaluates the role that shell rings played in the larger world of Late Archaic peoples by using both site specific, as well as larger regional environmental and archaeological data from Sapelo Island and the Georgia Coast.

These programs are free and open to the public. Please register at least 24 hours prior to this event by visiting <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/archaeology-lecture-series-the-ebb-and-flow-of-life-at-late-archaic-shell-rings-along-the-georgia-tickets-9131270877?aff=eorg>. You can also call 727-453-6500 to register.

DUES ARE DUE!



Jedi Money is always appreciated.

Do you enjoy our monthly lecture series? If you would like to see it continue in the future please do your part and renew your membership with CGCAS. 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!)

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 MEMBERS ASSIST AWIARE WITH TRENCH CLEAN UP



It was a beautiful day for screening!

Over the past few weekends, CGCAS members and volunteers have been assisting the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE) with the clean-up and recording of an old looter's trench through part of a prehistoric midden at the Weedon Island Preserve in St. Petersburg. After carefully cleaning out some of the disturbed midden material dug up by the looters the dirt was then screened to look for artifacts that they overlooked. We found lots of oyster, crown conch, lightning whelk and other varieties of food-related shell but also small fish bones and other food remains. A few pieces of prehistoric pottery also showed up in our screens. Most were undecorated sand tempered sherds, but a few check stamped pieces were also recovered.



Dave and Phyllis pick out the roots and shells looking for artifacts the looters left behind.

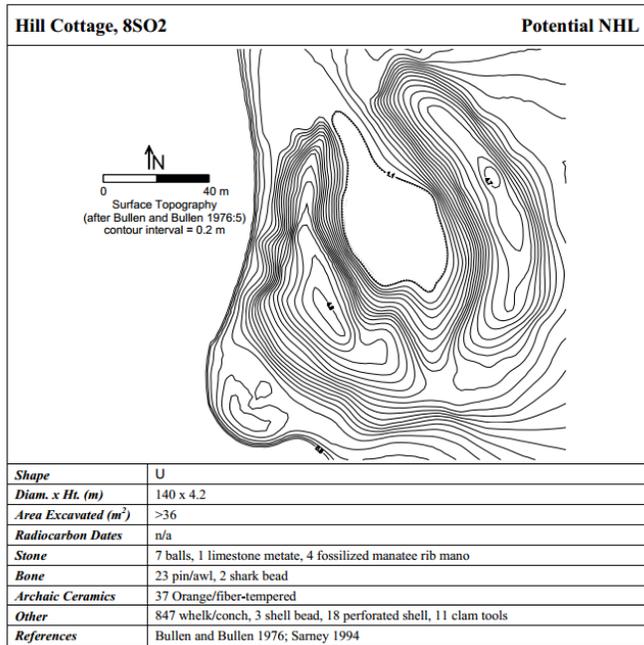


We had lots of help, but would love to see you out there!

Are you interested in getting involved and volunteering? Work will start up again the weekend of March 1 and continue every other Saturday until work is completed. No experience is required; just

make sure to bring a lunch! For more information contact Bob Austin at bob@searchinc.com

VISIT AN ARCHAIC SHELL RING NEAR YOU!



Interested in learning more about Archaic shell rings after seeing Dr. Thompson’s talk? Why not visit one in our area! The Hill Cottage site, located at Historic Spanish Point in Sarasota County, is a great example of this ancient landscape architecture that is open to the public. Excavations at the site in the 1990s revealed Archaic ceramics as well as shell tools, shell beads, and other artifacts. The U-shape of the Hill Cottage shell ring is typical of other shell rings found in Florida. The fact that it still remains largely intact makes it an important piece in the puzzle of understanding what life was like in Florida during the Archaic period. For more information on shell rings in the Southeast follow this link:

<http://www.nps.gov/nhl/themes/Archaic%20Shell%20Rings.pdf>

Historic Spanish Point, and the Hill Cottage site, is located at 337 N Tamiami Trail in Osprey, FL. The park is open Monday – Saturday from 9am – 5pm and Sunday from noon to 5pm. The park also features “A Window into the Past”, a view of a cross section of a prehistoric shell midden. For

more information go to:

<http://historicspanishpoint.org/>

NEW TEQUESTA SITE DISCOVERED IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI IN DANGER FROM DEVELOPMENT



Archaeologists working at a site in downtown Miami ahead of construction of a large entertainment complex have uncovered the remains of an ancient Tequesta village that some in the community have taken to calling “the birthplace of Miami”. Remnants of industrialist Henry Flagler’s 1897 Royal Palm Hotel, as well as artifacts from the 19th century Fort Dallas were also found. From the *Miami Herald*:

The archaeologists, under the direction of veteran South Florida archaeologist Bob Carr, have so far painstakingly dug up eight large circles comprised of uniformly carved holes in the native limestone that they believe to be foundation holes for Tequesta Indian dwellings dating as far back as 2,000 years.

They have also discovered linear, parallel arrangements of hundreds of such postholes stretching across the site that Carr hypothesizes mark the foundation for other structures, possibly boardwalks connecting the dwellings. The village site borders a rocky outcropping that his team has concluded was the original natural shoreline at the confluence of Biscayne Bay and the Miami River, a spot long ago occluded by fill.

“What’s unusual and unique about the site is that it’s this huge chunk of land where a major part of this ancient Tequesta village site is preserved,” Carr said in an interview. “It’s one of

the earliest urban plans in eastern North America. You can actually see this extraordinary configuration of these buildings and structures.”

After a seven hour hearing on the future of the site, Miami’s historic preservation board rejected a plan by the developer to carve out one of the circles and display it in a plaza within the new entertainment complex. The ultimate fate of the site is still in question however and preservationists, developers, and community members debate how to balance the importance of the site with the economic needs of the area. For more information on this ongoing story check out the links below:

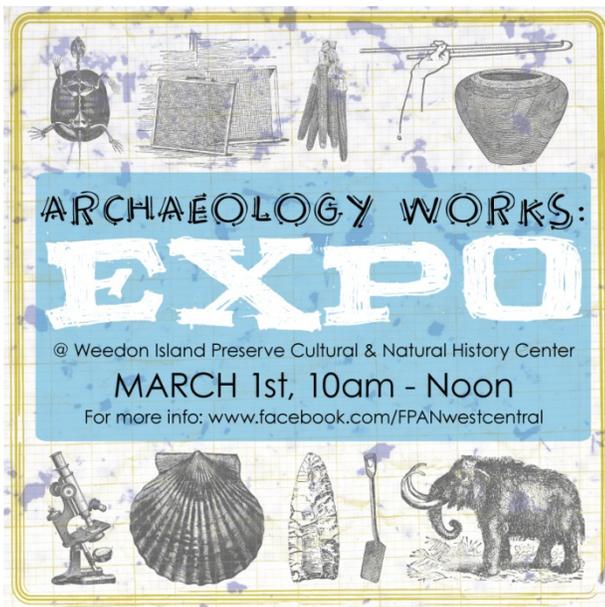
<http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/02/03/3911049/prehistoric-village-found-in-downtown.html>

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/02/14/3935274/expert-tequesta-site-in-downtown.html>

UPCOMING ARCHAEOLOGY EVENTS

Archaeology Works: Expo

Saturday, March 1, 2014 from 10:00 – Noon



Join the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center on Saturday, March 1st from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. for the Archaeology Works Expo. Attendees will have the chance to participate in hands-on activities from all the Archaeology Works workshops we have

offered to date. Children and adults will experience archaeology in various ways, ranging from the methods archaeologists use to learn about the past to recreating the technologies of Florida’s early residents. Bring the family to this free event to hang out with archaeologists from FPAN and the CGCAS and see if you could survive life in Prehistoric Florida!

WHERE: Weedon Island Preserve
1800 Weedon Dr NE, St Pete

Silver River Knap-In & Stone Age Arts Festival *February 22-23, 2014 from 9:00 – 4:00pm*



Expert flint knappers, archaeologists, potters, hide tanners, bow makers and other specialists in prehistoric skills will gather from across the eastern U.S. to demonstrate and sell their arts. Vendors will offer reproduction stone tools, raw stone, flint knapping tools, unique crafts, food and more. There will be archery, tomahawk and atlatl dart throwing demonstrations each day. A flint knapping competition and on-going prehistoric skills demonstrations will also take place. Besides the knap-in, visitors can explore the Silver River Museum, hike or bike the trails of the state park, take a tram ride through the woods, or canoe and kayak on the pristine Silver River. Weekend admission is \$5.00 per person. Children 5 and under admitted free.

WHERE: Silver River State Park
1425 N.E. 58th Ave, Ocala

For more information go to:

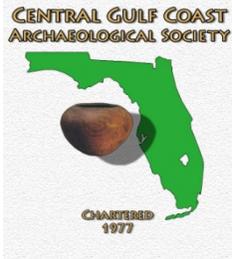
<http://www.marion.k12.fl.us/district/srm/knap.cfm>

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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	\$20.00
Student	\$10.00
Family	\$25.00
Life	\$150.00

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NEWSLETTER**
4202 E FOWLER AVE, NEC 116
TAMPA, FL 33620