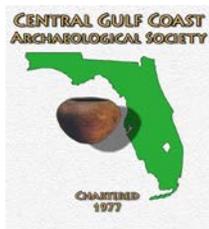

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

www.cgcas.org



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2010



Editor: David Burns

March Meeting

Thursday March 18th

at

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

7 – 8 PM.

Shell Mounds in the Southeastern U.S.: Middens, Monuments, Temple Mounds, Rings, or Works?



Bill Marquardt, Ph.D., Curator in Archaeology, Florida Museum of Natural History

Focusing on the southeastern United States, Dr. Marquardt provides some alternative perspectives on shell mounds previously interpreted as architectural features, temple mounds, and feasting sites. Observed abundances of particular shell species can result from local or regional ecological conditions and abrupt climate changes. Shell rings on the Georgia and South Carolina coasts were probably built to conserve and store unconfined water. To understand ancient shell mounds, we need a sediment-oriented approach to the study of mound deposits and more attention to the environmental contexts in which shell mounds accumulated.

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

Our 2009-2010 lecture series is coming to a close, but there are still a few great presentations left. This month Dr. Bill Marquardt will speak on Shell Mounds in the Southeast. Next month, Dr. Alison Elgart will discuss her recent research on skeletal populations from Southeast Florida. Both 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.

March 18, 2010 - William 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

March is Archaeology Month

March is Archaeology Month in Florida and there will be many activities going on 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>

March 6th was Archeology Day at Maximo Beach from 10am -3pm. Both the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) and CGCAS had tables and displays. FPAN's West Central Regional Director and CGCAS Board member Jeff Moates and CGCAS President Bob Austin presented talks relating to the local archaeological history of Maximo Point and the mounds of Pinellas County. Plan on attending these other local events during March:

Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, March 20, 2010-03-09

March 20th is Archaeology Day at Weedon Island. Join us for fun-filled day of archaeological discovery of Tampa Bay and help celebrate Florida Archaeology Month. The following special programs are planned:

Demonstrations and Archaeological Activities 10:00am – 3:00pm

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. Watch ancient tool demonstrations and try your skill at making pottery. Learn about recent excavations and what archaeologists have discovered about the early people who once resided on our shores.

Lecture: Underwater Archaeology of Tampa Bay 1:00pm-2:00pm

Jeff Moates, M.A., Florida Public Archaeology Network, West Central Regional Center
Listen to a talk about the exciting discoveries under Tampa Bay.

Lecture: Ancient Mound Builders of Tampa Bay 2:15pm-3:15pm

Robert Austin, Ph.D., Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc.

Join us in a talk about early mound builders on our coastal shores. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the shady oaks and discover hidden secrets along the interpretive trail.

SILVER RIVER MUSEUM & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Thursday, March 25, 2010
Museum Open House 4-6 PM
Evening Lecture 6-7 PM
Location: Silver River State Park

Archaeology of The Seminole Wars, Special Presentation by Dr. Brent Weisman

The Silver River Museum and Environmental Education Center celebrates Florida Archaeology Month, with an evening program on the Archaeology of the Seminole Wars, March 25 from 6-7 pm.

The program will be presented by Dr. Brent Weisman, a well-known authority on the Seminole Wars in Florida and the author of several books on the topic. Dr. Weisman is currently a professor and Chair of the Anthropology Department at The University of South Florida in Tampa.

The Center will also have an open House from 4-6pm. Archaeologists from the Florida Public Archaeology Network and Silver River Museum staff will have tables set up with archaeology information and prehistoric artifacts on display.

There is no admission charge for these events; however, due to limited seating reservations are needed for the evening program.

DIRECTIONS:

The Silver River Museum is located within the Silver River State Park in Silver Springs near Ocala. The State Park entrance is on Baseline Road (CR 35) about 1 mile south of HWY 40. Call (352) 236-5401 for more information and to reserve seats. Admission is free but seating is limited. Visit www.SilverRiverMuseum.com

This presentation sponsored in part by Ethridge Construction of Marion County and the Albright and Rudniansyn Families.

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 18th DeSoto National Memorial, sponsored by the Friends of DeSoto

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

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

Here's to a Speedy Recovery

CGCAS member and past President Roger Block is recovering from a serious leg injury. We wish him well in his treatments over the next few months. Let him know that we are thinking of him during this difficult time. He can be reached at 785 Capri Blvd., Treasure Island, FL 33706 or rblock@tampabay.rr.com

2010 John W. Griffin Student Grant Recipients

This year the FAC provided partial funding to two students toward their Master's research. CGCAS member and USF graduate student **Bart McLeod** was awarded \$525

to assist him in his analysis of Weeden Island and Safety Harbor mortuary pottery from sites in the Tampa Bay region that were excavated in the late 1930s by WPA archaeologists. He will be using x-ray fluorescence (XRF) to analyze and compare paste composition and address questions related to social interaction and exchange. Nother USF student, **Elicia Kimble** was awarded \$1000 toward her study of prehistoric occupation on St. Vincent Island in the Apalachicola delta of northwest Florida. She will be obtaining an AMS radiocarbon date from recently excavated material to better define a general Woodland period occupation. Additionally, Elisha will tabulate and photograph materials curated at the Bureau of Archaeological Research that was collected on the island during the 1970s/1980s

DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY: Seeing More

By Jack Harvey

The microscope and telescope broke barriers and entirely changed our view of our bodies, this world and our place in the universe. The stereo microscope has become vital for pottery sherd investigation but even it doesn't show us light our eyes can't perceive. So there may be much more to learn if we can just figure out how to see it.

Astronomers are leading the way, building telescopes that form digital databases of heavenly emanations human eyes can't make out. Then computers turn these databases into visible images by arbitrarily assigning colors that discriminate between kinds of emanations. They can then be displayed on a computer monitor or printed so that we are able to see the unseeable. This is sometimes misleadingly called *false color*.

What are these invisible emanations? The famous Hubble Space Telescope was recently upgraded to sense some of them. The resulting spectacularly colored images were widely publicized by NASA. Instead of showing what an astronaut might see if Hubble had an eyepiece, it can sense emanations in the infrared and ultraviolet bands, quite invisible to human eyes. Moreover, these emanations can indicate individual elements such as nitrogen, oxygen and hydrogen revealing chemicals thousands of light years



away.

The visible light spectrum can be compared to a single octave on a piano keyboard with each note (A through G) roughly corresponding to a color of the rainbow. Historically our vision has probably been our most important tool for identifying and evaluating possible archaeological material. Color and patterns on surfaces are much of what vision tells us. The color strongly depends on the chemical and physical characteristics of artifact surfaces and this varies from point to point causing spots and striations.

Yet human eyes are woefully limited in identifying colors. In fact, we sense only three colors are defined by the three kinds of cones in our retinas. All others are simply blends of these three. So frequently an object's shape rather than its color is the most important clue to its function and history. But chemists using spectroscopy are able to measure the amounts of individual elements in material. Why might this be useful in Florida archaeology?

The decorations on potsherds are significant indicators, but of what? A sherd may be found in one location but the pot may have been imported by interregional trade. Or the potter may have

migrated from another region through marriage or warfare. It might be helpful to know which moved: *the potter or the pot*. One way to help decide that is to learn where the clay came from. Its color may contain clues to its origin.

Imagine that our ears could only hear notes within a single piano keyboard octave. We would be deaf to notes in the several higher and lower octaves. In addition to limited music, we might be unable to hear the twittering of wrens or the growls of a bear. This may also be how our eyes are seeing archaeological specimens. We just aren't hearing the whole tune.

Spectroscopy is a well-established science that measures electromagnetic emanations precisely, usually to help identify the chemical content of a sample. Our eyes can't approach the precision or range that spectrosopes achieve since eyes only have three kinds of color sensors. Off the shelf digital cameras are similarly limited (red, green, blue) since they just mimic human eye performance. So we need a new kind of "camera" able to distinguish many more colors. We could start by sensing the other colors (orange, yellow, violet) too. But why stop there? Like the piano keyboard black keys, let's sense in-between pitches (colors) as well. Why not go for broke and sense, say, 50 different color shades between red and violet? Then, let's also sense 50 shades of infrared and 50 of ultraviolet for a total of 150 "colors".

Today we wouldn't know what to make of this data deluge. But spectroscopy may hold the key. The objective is to augment current methods of ceramic paste (clay) identification (such as siliceous sponge spicule classification) with a method that's quick and low cost. Since 150 "colors", including infrareds and ultraviolets, are far beyond what our eyes can sense, a computer will do the classification by comparing the digital data with a database of clays in the region.

Yes, this is a wild dream about a future digital archaeology tool. But Galileo wasn't planning to overturn accepted truth that the earth was the center of the universe when he pointed his telescope at Jupiter and discovered moons circling it.

He was simply Seeing More.

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 for further information.

FAS Membership

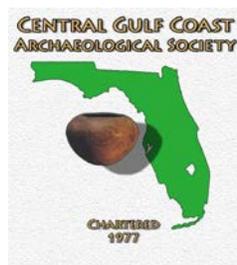
The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources and community education. Membership is made up of both professional and avocational archaeologists. Benefits of membership include the journal *The Florida Anthropologist*,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

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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 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

