
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

www.cgcas.org



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2012



Editor: David Burns

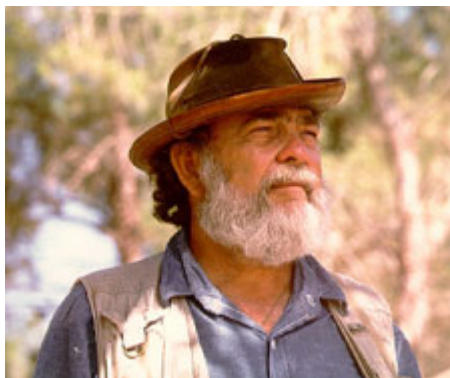
March Meeting

Thursday March 15th

at

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

7 – 8 PM.



James Strange, Ph.D. Professor of Religious Studies, USF

Some Recent Surveys and Archaeology in the Galilee of Israel

Recently Israeli archaeologists have been digging two ancient synagogues in the Galilee that have yielded their own surprises. At the same time a major Roman theater has emerged in Tiberias that rivals the one found in Sepphoris and Caesarea. Surveys continue apace, and now it appears that the Galilee in the Roman period is more densely populated than anywhere else in the Roman Empire except perhaps Germania. The details of local and regional trade routes are emerging from survey and other data to indicate that there was a vibrant manufacturing culture in the Galilee operating side by side with agricultural production.

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

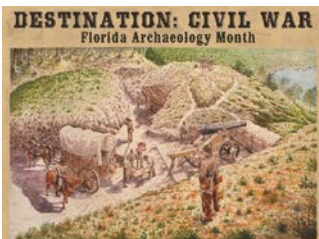
This Month's Speaker

James Strange is Professor of Religious Studies and Director of Graduate Studies. He has served both as Chairperson of Religious Studies (1990-93) and as Dean of the College of Arts and Letters (1981-89). He earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Rice University in 1959, an M.Div. from Yale Divinity School in 1964, and a PhD. in New Testament Studies from Drew University in 1970. He was Montgomery Fellow at the W.F. Abright Institute for Archaeological Research in Jerusalem in 1970-71 and NEH fellow at the same Institute in 1980. Dr. Strange's research interests are in Biblical Archaeology, New Testament Studies, Christian Origins and post-Biblical Judaism. His published co-authored books include *Ancient Synagogue Excavations at Khirbet Shema, Israel* (1976), *Excavations at Ancient Meiron, Upper Galilee, Israel* (1981), and *Archaeology, the Rabbis and Early Christianity* (1981), and *Excavations in the Ancient Synagogue of Gush Halav* (1990). He also revised and edited H.T. Frank's *Rediscovering the Biblical World* (1987).

March is Archaeology Month

March is Archaeology Month in Florida with many events, presentations, and lectures being presented by Chapters of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS). This month on March 3rd, CGCAS participated in the events held at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. Under the direction of Robert Austin, a small excavation was done so that visitors could observe archaeology in progress. See the results of their work below.

This year's poster shows Florida's participation in the Civil War. Copies of this poster can be obtained at the Weedon Island Center or at the membership meetings.



The 2011-2012 Lecture Series

4/19/2012 **Christopher Altes**, M.A. "Going with the Flow: Circum-Caribbean Currents, Trade, and Colonization"

Dues are Due Reminder

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

Field Trip to Hontoon Island

On March 31 and April 1, CGCAS is planning an overnight fieldtrip to DeLand, FL to visit Hontoon Island. Dr. Ken Sassaman of the University of Florida will be the guide and site interpreter.

The plan is to leave St.Petersburg/Tampa around 8:30 on Saturday, the 31st in order to arrive at Hontoon Island State Park by 11:30 or noon, pack a lunch to eat upon arrival, and then meet Dr. Sassaman, to take the ferry over to the island for his tour. Afterwards we can head to our motel to freshen up and then head over to the Blackwater Inn Restaurant in Astor, overlooking a beautiful view of the St. John's River. The next morning will be breakfast at the Pancake House in Deland, then a tour of Pat's Island in the Ocala Natl. Forest, also in the general vicinity of Astor. Below is a list of some motel accommodations in DeLand. DAYS INN, Orange City they will give us a room rate of \$76.50 per room (this includes tax) if you tell them that you spoke to Gil. The rate is for smoke-free room, for 2 double beds, or one king-size. They can be reached at 386-775-4522 QUALITY INN, Orange City Rooms with double beds run \$82.11 (tax included) and rooms with only a King-size bed run \$79.99 plus tax. They can be reached at 386-775-7444.

If you would like to attend this trip, contact Linda Allred at lallred@mybluelight.com.

Mark your Calendar

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 at Weedon Island

CGCAS has been doing a small excavation at Weedon Island as part of the Archaeology Month event. On March 3, 2012 visitors could 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.

As a result of this excavation the following artifacts were found.....



AWIARE Update

The work at the AWIARE Research Station is progressing nicely. The garage door has been enclosed with a temporary wall, the air conditioning ducts have been extended into the work area, the new sink is in, and new fluorescent lights have been installed.

As can be seen above, the sign announcing our official presence is in place at the entrance. Thanks to Kim Dudley for the design and creation of this sign.

Stop Spike TV from looting our past!

Spike TV is picking up a "series" of looters digging up artifacts, taking them out of context and selling them to the highest bidder. Encouraging this type of activity is wrong and doing it for profit as the motive is wrong! This is OUR history, not for sale in any form or fashion. One of the sites chosen for this series is ST. AUGUSTINE!!! Hope you will sign this petition and send to others who might feel the same way.

<http://www.change.org/petitions/stop-spike-tv-from-looting-our-collective-past?>

New Evidence for Early Arrival in America

New archaeological evidence suggests that America was first discovered by Stone Age people from Europe – 10,000 years before the Siberian-originating ancestors of the American Indians set foot in the New World.

A remarkable series of several dozen European-style stone tools, dating back between 19,000 and 26,000 years, have been discovered at six locations along the US east coast. Three of the sites are on the Delmarva Peninsula in Maryland, discovered by archaeologist Dr Darrin Lowery of the University of Delaware. One is in Pennsylvania and another in Virginia. A sixth was discovered by scallop-dredging fishermen on the seabed 60 miles from the Virginian coast on what, in prehistoric times, would have been dry land.

The similarity between other later east coast US and European Stone Age stone tool technologies has been noted before. But all the US European-style tools, unearthed before the discovery or dating of the recently found or dated US east coast sites, were from around 15,000 years ago - long after Stone Age Europeans (the Solutrean cultures of France and Iberia) had ceased making such artifacts. Most archaeologists had therefore rejected any possibility of a connection. But the newly-discovered and recently-dated early Maryland and other US east coast Stone Age tools are from between 26,000 and 19,000 years ago - and are therefore contemporary with the virtually identical western European material.

What's more, chemical analysis carried out last year on a European-style stone knife found in Virginia back in 1971 revealed that it was made of French-originating flint.

Professor Dennis Stanford, of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, and Professor Bruce Bradley of the University of Exeter, the two leading archaeologists who have analysed all the evidence, are proposing that Stone Age people from Western Europe migrated to North America at the height of the Ice Age by travelling (over the ice surface and/or by boat) along the edge of the frozen northern part of the Atlantic. They are presenting their detailed evidence in a new book - *Across Atlantic Ice* – published this month.

At the peak of the Ice Age, around three million square miles of the North Atlantic was covered in thick ice for all or part of the year.

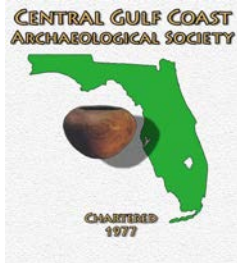
However, the seasonally shifting zone where the ice ended and the open ocean began would have been extremely rich in food resources – migrating seals, sea birds, fish and the now-extinct northern hemisphere penguin-like species, the great auk.

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| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|---------------|
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| Vice Pres. | Chris Hardy | 11924 Cypress Crest Cir. Tampa, FL 33626 | (813)920-2353 |
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| Membership | Cheryl Shaughnessy | 6100 62 nd Ave. N., Lot 63 Pinellas Park 33781 | (727)742-6758 |
| Web Master | Chris Hunt | 10706 Preserve Lake Dr. # 312, Tampa, FL | (813)784-4289 |
| Newsletter | David Burns | 15128 Springview St, Tampa, FL 33624 | (813)968-7910 |
| Editorial Assistants | | E-mail: daveburns@prodigy.net Bob Austin, Dorrine Burns | |

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 P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL

| | Dues |
|---------|---------|
| Regular | \$20.00 |
| Student | 10.00 |
| Family | 25.00 |
| Life | 150.00 |