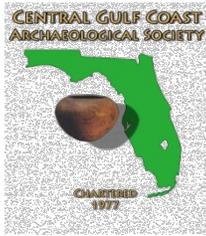


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# CENTRAL GULF COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
MARCH, 2014

*36 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE*

EDITOR: BECKY O'SULLIVAN

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***THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014, 7:00 PM***

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



***Jeffrey Mitchem, Ph.D.***  
***Arkansas Archaeological Survey***

## *Outside Influences, In-Place Change: Weeden Island to Safety Harbor Along The Gulf Coast*

For centuries, the Manasota/Weeden Island peoples along the Gulf coast lived a lifestyle that was well adapted to fishing, gathering, and hunting. They practiced rituals that included elaborately decorated pottery vessels, many made specifically for inclusion in burial mounds. Although we know few specifics about their beliefs, the distinctive pottery styles they created spread west along the Gulf Coastal Plain and into the Mississippi Valley. Beginning around A.D. 900, a change occurred across the Southeast, related to maize agriculture and possibly new religious and/or political beliefs. This Mississippian culture took hold in most of the Southeast, typically replacing earlier lifestyles. In the region between the Withlacoochee River and Charlotte Harbor, the Weeden Island/Manasota peoples resisted drastically changing their lifestyles, although they did adopt certain Mississippian traits, probably related primarily to religious and political beliefs. Archaeologists call this later culture Safety Harbor, and it was these people who met the Spanish expeditions of Pánfilo de Narváez and Hernando de Soto in the 1500s.

*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-outside-influences-in-place-change-weeden-island-to-safety-harbor-along-tickets-9131471477?aff=eorg>. You can also call 727-453-6500 to register.*

## DUES ARE DUE!



*Treasurer cat says your dues are 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!)

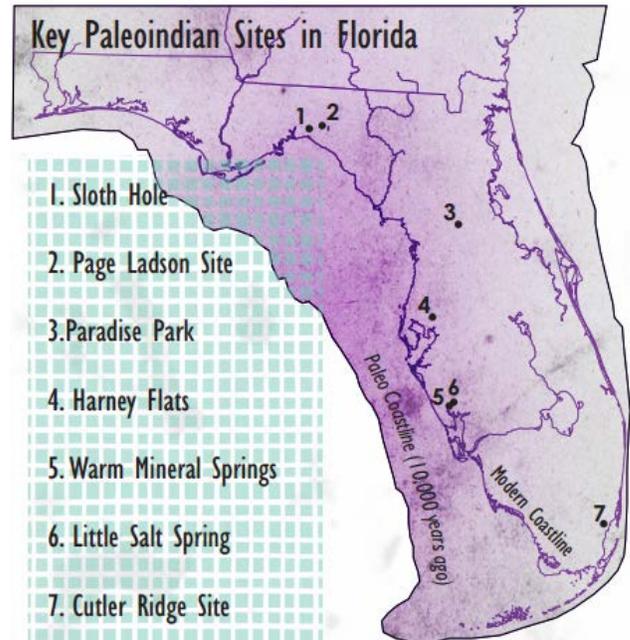
Dues can be paid in a variety of convenient ways: they can be paid directly to Cheryl Shaughnessy at our monthly meetings, they can be mailed to Cheryl at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780, or they can be paid online at our website through Paypal at [www.cgcas.org](http://www.cgcas.org). Again, your dues are what make our monthly speaker series possible, thank you for your continued support of CGCAS!

## HAPPY FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH!

Every March, Florida Archaeology Month programs and events celebrate different aspects of Florida's fascinating past. As part of this, archaeologists representing four statewide organizations collaborate to develop a different theme and commemorative poster each year. In 2014 Florida Archaeology Month discovers Florida's first peoples: Paleoindians.

Before this unique landform became the state of Florida that we recognize today, Paleoindian people encountered a much colder and drier environment. With huge amounts of water

locked up in vast ice sheets to the north, the level of the ocean was much lower than it is today. For someone living in the Tampa Bay area more than 10,000 years ago a trip to the beach would mean an extra 60 mile hike to the west. What that means for archaeologists today is that many of the sites occupied by Paleoindians in the past are now beneath the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.



Throughout March, events are going on all over the state to celebrate our unique archaeological heritage. Information about local events can be found on the Florida Anthropological Society Website, as well as the official Florida Archaeology Month website at [www.FLarchmonth.org](http://www.FLarchmonth.org).



*The 2014 Florida Archaeology Month poster.*

Florida Archaeology Month is coordinated by the Florida Anthropological Society, and supported by the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. Additional sponsors for 2014 include the Florida Archaeological Council, Florida Public Archaeology Network, state and local museums, historical commissions, libraries, and public and private school systems. The 2014 Archaeology Month poster (above) is available at our monthly CGCAS meetings at the Weedon Island Center and can also be acquired at many Archaeology Month events.

### THE LATEST FROM THE FIELD (AND ARCHAEOLOGY DAY) AT WEEDON ISLAND

On Saturday March 1, CGCAS members and volunteers came out again to assist 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 cleaning up and screening some of the spoil from the old trenches last time around, volunteers on March 1 started a few 1x1 meter units in order to get a better idea of the stratigraphy at the site.



*Mapping out at the site.*



*One of the finds from March 1: a Pinellas point.*

Are you interested in getting involved and volunteering? We will be out in the field again on March 16 and fieldwork will continue every other weekend 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](mailto:bob@searchinc.com).

While some CGCAS members were sweating it out in the field, others were helping out with a Florida Archaeology Month kick-off event at the Weedon Island educational center. Around 100 members of the public came out to the center to learn more about archaeology, participate in fun hands-on activities, and view displays of artifacts and prehistoric technologies. Special thanks go out

to Cheryl Shaughnessy, Roger Block, and Lori O'Neal with all their help in making the event a success!



Visitors to the archaeology day event explored aspects of Florida archaeology at different stations.



Lori demonstrates stone tool making for kids visiting the event.

## UPCOMING ARCHAEOLOGY EVENTS

**Our Past and Present: Archaeology at Manatee Mineral Spring**  
**Saturday, March 15, 2014 from 10:30 – Noon**

Join Professor Uzi Baram of New College of Florida and Time Sifters Archaeology Society at

Manatee Mineral Spring for a special tour of Reflections of Manatee's "History Flows from this Spring" interpretive trail. Dr. Baram will lead a dynamic tour and interactive discussion of the historical events which took place around the spring. Archaeology has revealed a rich heritage of many histories, covering thousands of years.

WHERE: Manatee Mineral Spring  
 1312 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E, Bradenton

**DeSoto County Pioneer Day Festival**  
**March 15, 2014 from 9:00am – 3:00pm**

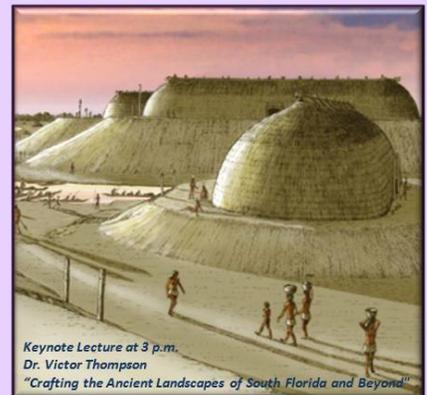
Enjoy a day of fun and celebrate the pioneer history of DeSoto County. FPAN will be on hand with displays and activities all about archaeology in our area.

WHERE: DeSoto Veterans Park  
 SR 70 just west of Arcadia

**Calusa Heritage Day**  
**March 15, 2014 from 10:00am – 4:00pm**

**Calusa Heritage Day 2014**  
**Saturday, March 15**  
**10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Archaeologists  
 Artists  
 Authors  
 Replicators  
 Food  
 Boat Tour  
 Children's Area  
 Site Tours  
 Speaker's Tent  
 Atlatl Throwing  
 Calusa Tastings  
 Native Plants



Keynote Lecture at 3 p.m.  
 Dr. Victor Thompson  
 "Crafting the Ancient Landscapes of South Florida and Beyond"

\$5 per person, Children and RRC Members Free  
 Randell Research Center, Calusa Heritage Trail  
 13810 Waterfront Drive, Pineland  
 For additional information: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/rrc/>  
 239-283-2062 or 283-2157

Admission: \$5 per person, Children & RRC Members Free. This wonderful annual event highlights all things Calusa. See artists, authors, and replicators. Take a boat tour or try your hand at the atlatl! Speakers will include Dr. Victor Thompson, an archaeologist who specializes in the study of socio-political complexity and the historical ecology of wetland and coastal environments in the American Southeast. He will present "Crafting the Ancient Landscapes of Florida and Beyond."

WHERE:       Randell Research Center  
              13810 Waterfront Drive, Pineland

**Lunch and Learn with an Archaeologist**  
*March 18, 2014 from 12:00 – 1:00pm*



Join FPAN West Central Jeff Moates for lunch and a chat about underwater archaeology in Florida. The Polk County Historical Museum is introducing a "Lunch & Learn" series. The museum invites guests to bring lunch up to the 1926 courtroom and listen to a guest speaker on the third Tuesday every month. Lectures will begin at 12:15 and last 45 - 60 minutes. The program is free just bring your own lunch!

WHERE:       Polk County History Center  
              100 E Main St, Bartow

**Lecture - Archaeology at Little Salt Spring**  
*March 25, 2014 from 1:00 – 3:00pm*

Since the 1960s it has been known that Little Salt Spring, located in Sarasota County, is a drowned sinkhole over 70 meters deep, containing some of the oldest and most unique artifacts yet

discovered in Florida. Wooden tools 6,000 to 10,000 years old, as well as exceptionally well preserved plant and animal remains, are submerged in anoxic spring water that has minimized decomposition of a wide range of organic remains and artifacts missing almost completely from terrestrial sites. Join Dr. John Gifford, Professor Emeritus at the University of Miami, as he discusses some of the exciting findings from this unique prehistoric deep-water site.



WHERE:       University of South Florida Library  
              Grace Allen Room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
              4202 E Fowler Ave, Tampa

**Five Centuries of Florida History**  
*March 29, 2014 from 10:00am – 3:00pm*



Five Centuries of Florida history is a unique opportunity to experience 500 years of Florida history in one afternoon. Converse with Civil War soldiers, talk with Rough Riders, learn about the plight of WWI trenches and the experiences of WWII GI's. Five Centuries of Florida history brings together re-enactors from all over Florida as they portray their particular periods of time from the time of Spanish conquest to the present day. FREE! For more information, call (941) 792-0458 or visit [www.nps.gov/deso](http://www.nps.gov/deso).

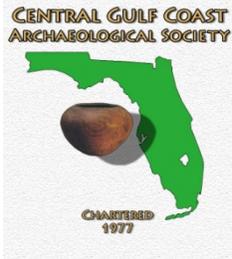
WHERE:       DeSoto National Memorial  
              75<sup>th</sup> St Northwest, Bradenton

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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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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER**  
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