
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

www.cgcas.org



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2010



Editor: David Burns

April Meeting

Thursday April 15th

at

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

7 – 8 PM.

Life and Death in Southeastern Florida during the Late Archaic Period



Alison Elgart, Ph.D., Florida Gulf Coast University

A cemetery and discrete burials discovered at the Hiatus #2 site, a Late Archaic to Glades Period site located on the Pine Island Ridge in Broward County, provides information on the quality of life, social organization, and perceptions of death during this time period. The cemetery, located on the southeastern edge of the site in association with the habitation component, held many juvenile burials, while two discrete burials located west of the cemetery area contained adults. Join us to learn how the mortuary patterns from these sites compared to other contemporaneous sites in southern Florida and to later burial practices, including the animal burials at the Miami Circle site.

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 has come to a close. This month, Dr. **Alison Elgart** will discuss her recent research on skeletal populations from Southeast Florida. Her presentation, "Life and Death in Southeastern Florida during the Late Archaic" will be at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center beginning at 7 pm on April 15, 2010. This program is free and open to the public.

March was Archaeology Month

Another successful Archaeology Month was concluded in March. This year's theme celebrated American Indian mounds, including how mounds are defined and constructed, mound functions, and the relationship of Florida sites to broader Southeastern mound-building cultures.

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.



Loren Blakeley



Karin Lovik



Terry Powell

March 20th was Weedon Island's Archaeology Month's event. There were hands-on activities including clay pot making by Loren Blakely, ancient tool demonstrations by Terry Powell, and artifact sorting by CGCAS members. Lectures by Jeff Moates and Bob Austin were presented in the afternoon.

The weather was great as was the attendance. It all made for a very successful day.

Slate of Officers for 2010-2011

The Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate of officers for 2010-2011:

President: Karin Lovik; *Vice President:* Robert Austin; *Secretary:* Linda Allred; *Treasurer:* Cheryl Shaughnessy; *Directors:* Sheila Stewart, Allison Harvey, Cindy Martin, Chris Hardy, Marcie Connors, Jeff Moates.

Elections will be held at the annual picnic in June.

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.

Program at Weedon Island

On Saturday April 24th, Weedon Island Preserve is presenting the following program by Paul Dosal entitled "Florida and the Caribbean: From Ponce de Leon to Hugo Chavez. It starts at 2:00 pm and is free and open to the public.

Closing of Weedon Island and Brooker Creek Centers!

Time for Action!

Attend the Meeting at Weedon Island on Tuesday, April 13th at 6:00 pm!

It's that time of year again when The County Commissioners are preparing the budget for 2010-2011 and it proposes more drastic cuts to many programs and departments that suffered the same misfortune last year. Among the proposals is a recommendation to moth-ball both Weedon Island and Brooker Creek Preserves.

Please voice your concerns to your Pinellas County Commissioners regarding the value of saving the Weedon Island Center. Directions regarding emailing your Commissioner can be found below. Also, please plan on attending a meeting of the Friends of Weedon Island on April 13 at the Weedon Island Center at 6 PM. Commissioner Karen Seel will be attending the meeting and we need to demonstrate support for the Weedon Island Center.

Please refer to the letter below from Bob Kersteen, President of Friends of Weedon Island (FOWI), to their members.

TO: FOWI Members

FROM: Bob Kersteen President Carla Garbin WI Volunteer

At its last 2011 budget workshop, Pinellas County Commissioners discussed the Centers at both Weedon Island and Brooker Creek and the need to do something "dramatic" with their operation. The discussion focused on either "mothballing" the centers (aka closing them) or finding a partner to operate. It was clear from the discussion that most **commissioners were misinformed about the centers and their operation** and were instead relying on any personal experience or memory they could call upon. Fortunately, at the close of the discussion, staff was charged with providing them with current center operating information.

Commissioners need to hear from as many citizens as possible about the value both centers offer and why closing them cannot be an option. Last year's public meetings proved that waiting to speak up at them is waiting too long. Decisions are being made now and we need to be heard. Please, email or call the commissioners as soon as possible and support the continued operation of the centers. Let's get "moth-balling" off the table. To email them, go to http://www.pinellascounty.org/forms/bcc_form.htm. Click on each commissioner's name and type your text into the box below. This will send your email to each automatically. If you'd like, you can simply "cut and paste" the following into the text box.

Remove the mothballing of the Weedon Island and Brooker Creek education centers from the 2011 budget "to do" list. Through Pennies for Pinellas, county voters have invested heavily in both centers. In turn, the centers and their staffs have made excellent contributions to the public. Any savings achieved from mothballing will be insignificant weighed

against the investment the public has already made and the costs associated with closing and keeping them closed for the foreseeable future. Continuing the current "bare bones" operation, while not ideal, at least protects the public's investment while providing strong environmental and historical education opportunities for students and adults.

If you haven't already, you can listen to the discussion on the centers by going to the county's budget presentation website: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/budget/presentations11.htm>. Once loaded, move the video forward to 1:41 to begin the discussion on the preserves. The meeting was about 4 hours long in total. If you'd also like to listen to the discussion on the parks, start the video at 1:17.

Join us on Tuesday, April 13th at 6:00 PM at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center when County Commissioner Karen Seel will be our guest.

Voice your opposition again to the closing of the Center and to reducing the qualified staff (1.5 employees) still left after last year's budget cuts.

DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY: Photo Math

By Jack Harvey

Photoshop, a trademarked software product of Adobe Systems, Inc. has become so successful that it's now a slang verb: *to photoshop*. Actually as old as photography itself, *trick photography* was the slang for the first part of the 20th century. For entertainment, photos were usually edited in the darkroom to remove or add things or people, or juxtapose entertaining combinations. The movie King Kong is a classic example. The giant ape didn't actually climb the Empire State Building carrying Ann Darrow, but the adrenalin in our blood was real. *Visual effects* is Hollywood's name for the movie version of trick photography and it rates an academy award.

So why should archaeologists use tricky or entertaining technology? Simply because it allows easy desktop preparation of professional-quality illustrations for technical publication. Eliminating distracting backgrounds or adding overlaid descriptive text and pointers isn't trickery. Archaeologists frequently use PowerPoint to aid their talks so why not use a computer to illustrate their publications?

The advent of personal computers and software like Photoshop has put this technology in the hands of every digital camera owner. Whereas previously it was film camera and darkroom tricks such as double exposures, dodging and retouching, now it all happens on the computer monitor screen controlled by mouse and keyboard. And although Adobe Photoshop is fairly expensive software, freeware image editing programs (GIMP, Paint.Net, Pixia) are readily available on the Internet.

Digital cameras (and scanners) don't produce "photos" in the film camera sense – they produce long *number lists* describing an image. An actual visible image never exists until these numbers get to the camera monitor screen, the computer monitor or a printer. Consider an edit such as cropping an image to concentrate on the interesting subject. The computer simply eliminates all the numbers describing useless parts of the image you want to cut off. And since the numbers specify the amount of light at each tiny spot (pixel), mathematics can be used to adjust the lighting! Your image editing program does the math for you in response to your direction to lighten or darken the image. It will add, subtract, multiply or divide all those millions of numbers to achieve the edit you want, which you see instantly. Removing a confusing object from the image means simply replacing the numbers describing it with background-like numbers. If you don't like what you did, you can *undo* the edit and try something else.

For technical illustrations, you often need to overlay text and arrows calling attention to important features in an image. This

is done by substituting numbers describing the letter shapes and arrows for the original numbers under them. The image editing programs aren't limited to editing digital camera shots either. You can create professional quality charts, diagrams or maps from scratch. The program generates all the millions of pixel describing numbers needed to specify the diagram you want, as though it was a digital camera shot.

The best part of this is that you don't have to be a mathematician to use this technology. The programmers who create the image editing software do this for you, providing easy mouse and keyboard ways for you to create the images best suited to your needs. For example, to draw a straight line, mouse-click on each end and the program zaps the line across your monitor. You pick its color and width, dotted or continuous. You don't need to know about all the numbers needed to describe the line. It's like having a CPA do your tax return and you get the refund.

This is all possible because elementary school math can be done on the numbers coming from a digital camera. However high school and college math like trigonometry, calculus, matrix algebra plus Fourier transforms can do much more sophisticated image processing. Archaeologists and computer scientists at the Technion-Israel Institute and the University of Haifa have collaborated on a software system that can process an image of an original object so battered or eroded that its surface features can hardly be seen and produce a clean clear image.



For details about their advanced math processing and many examples, see their technical paper:

<http://webee.technion.ac.il/~ayellet/Ps/08-KST.pdf>

No darkroom trickery could produce the marvelous results that higher mathematics achieves. And it's all doable because of the mind-boggling number lists your digital camera uploads to your digital computer.

This isn't a future possibility; it's happening right now before your eyes. Of the illustrations that have accompanied the articles in this *Digital Archaeology* series, at least two-thirds have been significantly edited, enhanced or created outright using computer software. I know this because I did each one. Can you tell which?

FAS Membership

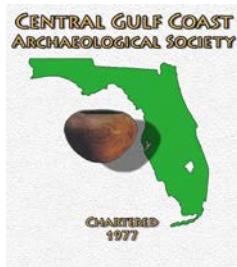
The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources and community education. Membership is made up of both professional and avocational archaeologists. Benefits of membership include the journal *The Florida Anthropologist*,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

CGCAS Officers/Directors

President	Bob Austin	P.O. Box 2818, Riverview, FL 33568	(813)677-2280
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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

