
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

www.cgcas.org



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2011



Editor: David Burns

April Meeting

Thursday April 21st

at

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

7 – 8 PM.

Power Dynamics and Urban Construction at Teotihuacan (AD150-650) Mexico



Tatsuya Murakami Ph.D., University of South Florida

Teotihuacan, the capital city of a regional state in Central Mexico from A.D. 150-650, is characterized by its monumental civic-ceremonial architecture and dense settlement. From the third century A.D. onward, most of the city's 100,000 residents lived in walled residential compounds consisting of multiple courtyard units, resulting in a highly distinct urban landscape. Despite three decades of extensive research, the study of political organization at Teotihuacan has produced contradictory views of state-subject relationships. Focusing on labor and material resources employed for urban construction, this talk discusses sociopolitical changes at Teotihuacan and how different social segments, including dominant elites, intermediate elites, and commoners, articulated with one another.

Pre-register for this event by visiting www.pinellascountyextension.org, clicking the "Online Registration" button, and then choosing the "Weedon Island" tab. You may also call 727-453-6500.

Canoe Update

On Tuesday, March 1, 2011 the long awaited excavation and removal of the canoe discovered in 2001 took place. At 7 AM under an overcast sky, a crew of 12 people (including CGCAS members, County employees, members of Friends of Weedon Island, and other volunteers) took off in three boats, arriving at the site about a half hour later. While half the crew began building a retaining wall of sandbags, the rest began excavating and exposing the canoe. Within about two hours the canoe was completely exposed. It was then sawed into four 10-foot sections. Using straps, two of the better preserved sections were carried to the waiting boat. The other two sections were in poor condition, so a plastic tarp had to be inserted underneath them so they could be transported without losing any of the broken fragments.

Once back at Weedon Island, the canoe was cleaned off with fresh water and then placed in a specially made preservation tank. It has gone through several rinses to eliminate salt water and dead organisms. Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) will be slowly added over the next two years to remove the water and make the canoe stable for reconstruction and display. The canoe condition is being monitored on a regular basis to help maintain the stability of the wood. Samples of the wood have been taken to determine which species of pine was used in the canoe's construction and samples of the peat that the canoe was resting on were collected for identification and possible radiocarbon dating conservation and preservation of the canoe is being overseen, by the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc. (AWIARE) and members of CGCAS including Chris Hunt, Bob Austin, Phyllis Kolianos, and Dave Burns. Funds for the excavation and preservation of the canoe are being provided by the Friends of Weedon Island.



Top: Carrying a section of the canoe to the waiting boat.
Right: Canoe sections in the preservation tank.



This Month's Speaker

This month's speaker is Dr. Tatsuya Murakami, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida. He received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from Arizona State University and an M.A. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Tokyo, Japan. He also obtained a B.A. in Spanish from Kanagawa University, Japan. He teaches classes in Archaeology, Mesoamerican Archaeology, Quantitative Methods, and Advanced Quantitative Methods.

Tatsuya's research interests include the anthropology of material culture, power dynamics in early complex societies, urbanism and architecture, craft production, archaeological science, and Teotihuacan, Mesoamerica.

The lecture will be held at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center and is free and open to the public.

This year more than ever it is important to pre-register so that the number of attendees is accurately recorded by the County!! You can also do so by calling the Center at 727-453-6500 or by visiting www.pinellascountyextension.org, navigating to "Online Class Registration", and choosing "Weedon Island."

CGCAS Yard Sale

CGCAS had a Yard Sale on Saturday April 1st at the home of Doris Dix (Dee Dee). Thanks to all who donated items for this sale, especially Dee Dee and Terry Powell. It was a beautiful day and we had a good turnout. At the end of the day we earned \$514.23 which includes money from early sales of donated furniture. Half of the proceeds will go to AWIARE and the other half to CGCAS.



Some of the many items offered at the garage sale



Some of the many visitors that made the garage sale a success

Next Book Club Meeting



The next CGCAS Book Club meeting will be held on Saturday, April 30, at Crystal River State Archaeological Park. We plan on meeting at 11 AM in the parking lot by the Visitor Center. Go to the Crystal River web site for a map and directions: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/crystalriverarchaeological/default.cfm>

We are reading Brent Weisman's *Crystal River: A Ceremonial Mound Center on the Florida Gulf Coast*, published in Florida Archaeology number 8, 1995. We will also be discussing an article by Thomas J. Pluckhahn, Victor D. Thompson, and Brent Weisman titled "Toward a New View of History and Process at Crystal River (8C11)".

Picnic in the Park

Again, this is just a reminder to put the date of June 18, 2011 on your calendar. We will again hold the CGCAS picnic at Lake Seminole Park, the site of last year's outing. So please mark your calendar and reserve this date so that you can join us there. More information will be included in the next newsletter.

Archaeology in the Park

On Saturday March 26th members of CGCAS participated in a program "Archeology in the Park" sponsored by the Florida will be presented at the Ybor Public Archeology Network (FPAN), Florida Park Service, and the USF Department of Anthropology. The event was held at the Ybor City Museum State Park, 1818 Ninth Ave., Tampa, 33601.

There were fun and educational activities for both children and adults. Two shovel tests were excavated to give the public an opportunity to watch archaeologists in action and learn about the history of Ybor City.



Ted E. Bear (new member), Chris Hardy, Cindy Martin, and Dave Burns at CGCAS event table



Jeff Moates and Deborah Mullins discussing the results of a shovel test

Flint Knapping at USF

On a warm, sunny morning on Saturday, April 9, a group of budding knappers met at the FPAN office at USF with Dr. Jon Endonino and learned how to knap arrowheads, blades, scrapers, and anything else they could imagine. After a short introductory lecture on how to prepare a striking platform, what a proper strike angle is, and what type of material to use, participants moved outside and set up for a day of knapping. The equipment included safety goggles, leather work gloves (very important for the hands), a piece of leather to rest on

your knee while you work the chert, the striker (made of heavy deer or elk antler, a hammer stone, or a copper striker filled with a heavy material such as lead), and most importantly a chunk of chert. After demonstrating how to prepare a good strike platform, everyone attempted to knock off useable pieces of chert, listening for that certain "chink" sound that tells you a good piece was struck. After lunch, everyone learned how to flake the piece of chert to make a specific item and to sharpen the edges. The most difficult part of the lesson was getting the strike angle right - if you hit it too high on the piece, nothing happens; but if you strike it too low, then you just get little bits of chert and bruised knuckles. By the end of the day, everyone had some crude but useable stone tools.

We would like to thank Jeff Moates of FPAN for organizing the event and providing a place to meet; and to Jon Endonino for giving his time to teach us flint knapping.



Flint knapping tools



Participants listen to Jon Endonino talk about the fine "points" of flint knapping

2011 FAS Annual Meeting

The 63rd annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society will be hosted by the Society's Central Florida chapter in historic Orlando, May 6-8, 2011. Registration forms and details about the meeting are available at <http://www.fasweb.org/meeting.htm>. Dr. Glen Doran will be the keynote/banquet speaker. Jason Wenzel and Kevin Gidusko will serve as conference co-chairs.

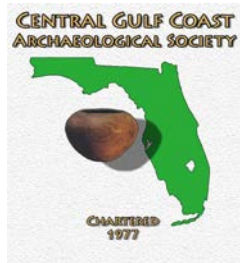
The Central Florida Anthropological Society arranged with Comfort Suites, Downtown Orlando for a special conference rate of \$89/night plus tax. The hotel is located at 2416 N. Orange Ave., Orlando FL 32804, which about ¼ of mile from the Orlando Shakespeare Theater where the meetings will be held. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel at 1-877-228-4007 or (local) 407-228-4007. Although advanced reservations ended April 6, rooms are still available at the standard room rate as well as at the many other hotels and motels in the area.

CGCAS Officers/Directors

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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

