
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

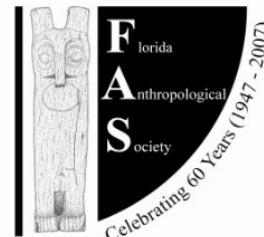
A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2007

Editor: David Burns



May Meeting

Come join **Dr. Robert Austin** and some of the volunteers who are working on the Bayshore Homes project. We will meet on Thursday May 24th at the Lighthouse Freewill Baptist Church on the corner of 40th Ave. N. and Park Street. From 7 to 9 P.M. Dr. Austin will give a full report on the project to the residences living within Parque Narvaez. This is open to everyone so plan on joining us for this interesting meeting. For detail, see the flier on page 3. Thank you **Mac Perry** for creating it.

Bayshore Homes Project

We are continuing to excavate Test Unit 2 at 8343 40th Place in Bayshore Homes. We are finding a lot of interesting artifacts during this project and there is still plenty of time to join us. Thanks to all the CGCAS members who have taken part so far. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Bob Austin at 813-677-2280 or email him at bob@searchinc.com if you want to help.

FAS 2008 Committees

Planning for the 2008 FAS Annual Meeting in Tampa continues. The following people have agreed to chair the committees below. They will need help and your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Program Committee: Chair, Dr. Bob Austin (bob@searchinc.com)

Local Arrangements Committee: Co-Chair, Marcie Connors (tjconnors@verizon.net); Shanna Drwiega (sdrwiega@yahoo.com)

Registration Committee: Chair, Chris Hardy (kastoagirl@yahoo.com)

Public Relations Committee: Chair, Linda Allred (lallred@mybluelight.com)

Dues Deadline

As you know by now, our dues are paid each January for the coming year. Most of you have paid already, but for those who haven't, you have until June to submit your payment. After that you will be dropped from our membership. We appreciate your past support and do not want to lose you.

Newsletter by Email

With postage increasing again on May 14th to \$.41, we are going to make a strong effort to distribute the newsletter by email. This will help cut expenses for CGCAS. Again, if you are not receiving it that way, let me know if this will work for you.

FIRST AMERICAN MAP IS NOW IN AMERICAN HANDS

America finally has an original copy of its birth certificate. A 500-year-old map that was the first to identify this brave new world as "America" was officially turned over to the United States on Monday by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The map was

drawn by German-born cartographer Martin Waldseemüller in 1507, and he named the land mass to honor Amerigo Vespucci, who is credited with being the first explorer to realize he wasn't in Asia. (Sorry, Christopher Columbus.) A German prince sold the map to the United States in 2001 for \$10-million, but official transfer was delayed by the fact that it was on

Remains of Ancient Tribe Found at Brickell Ave. Site

The remains of at least five ancient inhabitants of South Florida have been found at a development site on Brickell Avenue.

BY MARTIN MERZER
mmerzer@MiamiHerald.com

Archaeologists have found ancient human remains at another Brickell Avenue development site, additional evidence that downtown Miami and much of South Florida was inhabited thousands of years ago.

Fragmented bones belonging to five or six members of the extinct Tequesta tribe -- or its ancestors -- were unearthed in recent weeks at 1814 Brickell Ave., eventual site of a 12-unit condominium, according to archaeologist Robert Carr.

"This is not nearly at the scale of what we've seen in other downtown areas, but it was definitely a cemetery," said Carr, who lives in Davie and has discovered and assessed many ancient sites in Broward and Miami-Dade, including the Miami Circle. "The question is the extent of it."

State law requires a full archaeological assessment of any site that yields human remains and the reburial of those remains at their original location or as close to it as feasible.

That process can delay construction, but state law does not require termination of development at such sites.

REBURIAL OF REMAINS

Carr, Miami-Dade's former archaeologist, and Angel Berisiartu, vice president of the development firm, IERI Inc., said the bones and any remains still to be found would be reburied on the site about 150 feet from the place of discovery, a 50-foot-by-50-foot-wide natural depression.

A team of Carr's workers dug and sifted along an edge of the site Friday, while Berisiartu paced nearby. He said he was willing and determined to follow all regulations, but the delays were becoming financially burdensome.

"Time is money and the archaeologists have been digging here since November," Berisiartu said. "It's very difficult to tell my investors that all this time

has passed and all we have is a guy in a hole in the ground with a brush in his hand."

The initial discovery of remains -- two leg bones -- was made in March by archaeologist Richard Haiduven, who was hired by the developer. Miami laws require preconstruction archaeological explorations in certain zones, including the Brickell area.

Scientists have not determined the age of the bones, but the fragments were surrounded by pottery shards, animal bones and an arrowhead -- most of which appear to be 2,000 to 3,500 years old, said Carr, whose firm is conducting the assessment of the site.

Ancient human remains are not unusual in South Florida, where the Tequesta -- hunters and gatherers -- thrived for 2,500 years before succumbing during the 1700s to Europeans and the germs they carried.

OTHER DISCOVERY

Human bones were found across Brickell Avenue at the site of what now is the Santa Maria condominium, and at the Miami Circle, the 38-foot-wide stone carving that Carr and other archaeologists discovered in 1998 about 12 blocks north of the new discovery. Remains also have been found in Weston, Miami Lakes, North Miami Beach and a six-acre development near the InterContinental Hotel in the heart of downtown Miami. In addition, a Tequesta cemetery still exists in Brickell Park between the Miami Circle and the new condominium site, likely to be called IERI Brickell.

Weedon Happenings

On Saturday May 5, 2007, an exhibit featuring photographs by **Dr. Jim Miller**, past State Archaeologist, will open at the Weedon Island Center. The special exhibit, *Birds: The Art of Form and Function*, highlights Dr. Miller's uncanny eye in capturing the close-up images of Florida's magnificent water birds in a way most people will never see. His photographs will be on display until June 30th.

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New trail signs have been installed at the Weedon Island Preserve. Over 20 interpretative signs along the mile long boardwalk and paved trail help guide visitors to a great learning experience. Many of the signs are interactive and provide interesting information about the wildlife of the Tampa Bay Estuary. You are invited to attend the "Interpretative Trail Sign Opening Celebration" on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The celebration will take place from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

# PARQUE NARVAEZ

## THE HISTORY BENEATH OUR HOMES



For the past couple of years Dr. Robert Austin, (Archaeologist for Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc, Board member of Florida Anthropological Society, and past editor for *The Florida Anthropologist* magazine) and a team of volunteers from the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society have been digging test pits in our yards trying to find out the boundaries of the village that once stood here more than a thousand years ago. Exactly who were these people, how did they live, what did they eat, worship, wear, how large was the village population, what happened to them, how many mounds do we have in our neighborhood? Come join Dr. Austin and the CGCAS avocational archaeologists on Thursday evening, May 24 at the Lighthouse Freewill Baptist Church up on the corner from 7 to 9 P.M. for a full report, PowerPoint presentation, and answers to these questions. Reservations not necessary. Come as you are. It's all free. For more info call your neighbor on the Indian Mound, Mac Perry at 381-7512.



**Who was Narvaez (Nar VAI ez) . . . . .** He was a ruthless conquistador who landed in this area in 1528 with 400 Spanish soldiers. They proceeded to march up through Florida and eventually, with only four survivors, made it to the Pacific Ocean and Mexico to become the first Europeans to explore the United States. Our neighborhood builder, Richard Key of the Bayshore Homes Development Corp. named our neighborhood Narvaez Park after the famous Narvaez expedition.

**Who is CGCAS . . . . .** The Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society is a 30-year-old State-chartered, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's great cultural heritage. Membership is made up of professional archaeologists and people like you and I who enjoy studying archaeology, participating in digs, and who have a deep interest in the Indians who once lived here. Learn more at the CGCAS website.

<http://www.cgcas.org>

### CGCAS Officers\Directors

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| President           | Shanna Drwiega | 917 W. Woodland Ave, Tampa, FL 33603                                     | (813)383-9182 |
| Vice Pres           | John Arthur    | USF St. Pete, 140 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33701       | (727)553-4960 |
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| Editorial Assistant | 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.

## 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 Roger Block, Membership Secretary, 785 Capri Blvd., Treasure Island, FL 33706

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



### **Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society**

P.O. Box 340705,  
Tampa, FL 33694.

