
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

www.cgcas.org



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2011



Editor: David Burns

It's Picnic Time!

Saturday June 18th

at

Lake Seminole Park
10015 Park Boulevard, Largo, FL
Shelter 12
12-4 PM



It is picnic time again and this year it will be held at Lake Seminole Park in Pinellas County on Saturday June 18th. There will be a board meeting from 11-12 and then the festivities will begin after that. CGCAS will supply the meat, drinks and buns. Please bring a covered dish to share. Bring family and friends and enjoy the hiking trails, the museum, and the playground for the kids. We will also have a raffle for prizes. The park features a two mile multi use trail through the woods and around a small lake. The wide paved trail is ideal for hiking, rollerblading, biking, running, or for walking and bird watching. There is a return path provided at the one mile point for folks not wanting to complete the entire trail. The trail runs one way only with designated lanes sorted by speed from walkers to bikers. Motorized vehicles are not allowed. There are several large play grounds for kids of various ages, a ball field, and a volleyball court. It will be a fun afternoon. Due to the distance, people may want to carpool to get there. See you there!

Picnic in the Park



On June 18, 2011 we will again hold the CGCAS picnic at Lake Seminole Park, Shelter #12, 10015 Park Blvd., Seminole, FL 33777. This is the site of last year's outing. CGCAS will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks so please bring a covered dish to share. If you would like to have something cooked on the grill, we will be happy cook it for you.

Elections will be held at noon with the picnic immediately following. There will also be drawing for door prizes. We hope to see you there for this day of great food, company, and enjoying the parks many trails and scenery.



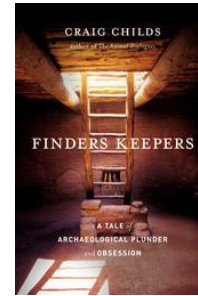
Lake Seminole Park is located on Park Boulevard or SR-694 in Seminole. One way to get there is to take I-275 and get off at exit 28 onto SR-694 (Gandy Blvd.) and head west. The road becomes CR-694 after 4.5 miles but continue another 3 miles to the park on the right. Look for Shelter 12 and you will have found the picnic.

Slate of Officers and Directors 2011-2012

The following slate of Officers and Directors will be elected at the picnic on June 18th:

President: Bob Austin
Vice President: Chris Hardy
Secretary: Linda Allred
Treasurer: Cheryl Shaughnessy
Directors: Jeff Moates
Cindy Martin
Dawn Hayes
Marcie Connors
Sheila Stewart
Doris Dix

Next Book Club



The next book club meeting will be June 25th at the home of Roger and Jean Block, 785 Capri Blvd., Treasure Island. You can call him at (727) 367-8381 if you need directions. The book we will be reading is *Finders Keepers: A Tale of Archaeological Plunder and Obsession* by Craig Childs. This is a book about the controversial subject of artifact collecting and addresses one of the questions raised in *Skull Wars*: Who owns the past? Sounds like it will be an interesting read and will engender lots of discussion.

Welcome Our "Newest New" Member

We would like to welcome the "newest new" member to our "family". Kelsey (Gibbs) and Derek Lucas celebrated the birth of their son Trey 4 months ago. We hope to greet this new arrival soon and welcome Kelsey back into the CGCAS "family".

SEAC Meeting in Jacksonville

On-line registration for the annual SEAC meeting to be held in Jacksonville November 2-5, 2011 is now available at: <http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annualmeeting.html>

Registration is just \$75.00 for non-members for the 4-day event. Rooms at the Hyatt Regency have been discounted for the meeting and are available for \$119.00 per night. This is a great opportunity to hear some interesting papers on Florida archaeology as well as many papers from elsewhere in the Southeastern US.

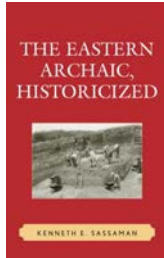
AWIARE Has the Signed Lease



AWIARE (Alliance for Weedon Island Archeological Research and Education) has received the signed lease agreement with Pinellas County for the archaeological research station at the Weedon Island Preserve. After many years and many obstacles, one of AWIARE's main goals is now being realized

Now the real work begins. AWIARE looks forward to building an even stronger relationship with Pinellas County as the archaeological research and public education efforts take shape in the coming months and years. AWIARE can take possession of the house on July 1st and begin the important work of converting it into a first class research center.

New Book



The Eastern Archaic, Historicized is a new book by University of Florida archaeology professor Ken Sassaman. It offers an alternative perspective on the genesis and transformation of cultural diversity over eight millennia of hunter-gatherer dwelling in eastern North America. For many decades, archaeological understanding of Archaic diversity has been dominated by perspectives that emphasize localized relationships between humans and environment. The evidence, shows, however that Archaic people routinely associated with other groups throughout eastern North America and expressed themselves materially in ways that reveal historical links to other places and times. Starting with the colonization of eastern North America by two distinct ancestral lines, the Eastern Archaic was an era of migrations, ethnogenesis, and coalescence--an 8,200-year era of making histories through interactions and expressing them culturally in ritual and performance.

Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) Sample Collection at Weedon Island

Over the Memorial Day weekend, Dr. Jack Rink from McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, Dr. Glen Doran from Florida State University, and archaeologist Grayal Farr joined Brent Weisman and Bob Austin in coring several locations on Weedon Island to obtain sediment samples for optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating. OSL measures the amount of time that has elapsed since sand grains were last exposed to sunlight by stimulating the grains in a laboratory and measuring the amount of light (luminescence) that is released. Quartz sand grains gradually absorb ionizing radiation that is present naturally in the soil; the longer the sand grains are buried, the more radiation is absorbed. When the sand is exposed to sunlight, as when they are transported from one location to another by the wind, luminescence is released, resetting the radiation "clock". Once buried, the sand grains again begin to accumulate radioactive isotopes. Thus, when buried quartz sand is collected properly and stimulated in a laboratory, the amount of luminescence that is released becomes a measure of the amount of time that has passed since last exposure to the sun. The more light that is released, the longer the amount of time that has passed.

Three locations at Weedon Island were cored using a Geoprobe 540 RT/D direct-push, wheel-mounted coring system supplied by FSU (Figure 1). Core #1 was located near

the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center where a 1995 survey recovered a Marion projectile point (Figure 2) and several chert waste flakes between 65 and 95 centimeters below ground surface. Based on radiocarbon dates from other sites in Florida, Marion points date to the Middle Archaic period (ca. 6000-5000 B.P). Core #2 was placed in a large dune ridge near the National Register monument north of the Progress Energy access road, while Core #3 was obtained in the midden area along the northern perimeter of the Weedon Island archaeological site. The depth of the cores varied from 12 to 16 feet. OSL dating will be performed by Dr. Rink.

Dating of the dune sands has implications for site formation as well as paleoenvironmental studies. The dune sands in Pinellas County are believed to have been deposited during the late Pleistocene, but may have been deposited as late as the early to mid-Holocene. Dating of the sands with OSL provides an estimate of the time of deposition. This in turn provides an alternative to radiocarbon dating for the Archaic-period (and potentially earlier) archaeological deposits encased in the sands, particularly since charred botanical remains for radiocarbon dating are rare in deep sand deposits. Finally, there is current debate on the exact nature of the archaeological deposits found in deep sand contexts. In some instances, the quartz sands date substantially older than the archaeological deposits contained within them (based on cross-dating of temporally diagnostic artifacts that have been radiocarbon dated elsewhere). The implication is that the sands did not accumulate over the archaeological deposits, but that the artifacts are sinking into previously deposited sands via bioturbation (ant burrows and chambers, gopher tortoise burrows, roots, etc). Since the dune sands at Weedon Island contain preceramic archaeological deposits that are believed to date back to at least the mid-Holocene, dating of the sands with OSL will provide data that can contribute to a better understanding of site formation processes at Weedon Island.



Figure 1. Grayal Farr, Glen Doran, and Brent Weisman using the GeoProbe to obtain core samples at Weedon Island



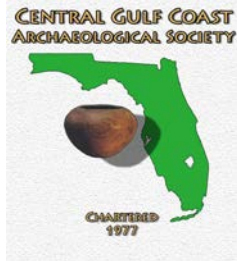
Figure 2. Marion projectile point from Weedon Island

CGCAS Officers\Directors

President	Karin Lovik	1225 Jeffords St. Apt 225A, Clearwater, FL	(727)543-6912
Vice Pres	Bob Austin	P.O. Box 2818, Riverview, FL 33568	(813)677-2280
Secretary	Linda Allred	5251 42 nd Ave N., St. Petersburg, Fl 33709	(727)526-7885
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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

