
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

www.cgcas.org



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2009



Editor: David Burns

Saturday July 25th

Field Trip!!

to



Tampa Bay History Center

801 Old Water St.

Tampa, FL 33602

10:00 AM

Join other CGCAS members for a special tour of the Tampa Bay History Center and experience the exhibits with friends and fellow history and pre-history buffs. The beautiful new, state-of-the-art, 60,000-square-foot center includes 12,000 years of powerful stories, including those of the native inhabitants, Spanish conquistadors, pioneers, fledgling towns, cattle ranching, presidents, sports legends and railroad tycoons. Stroll through a 1920's-era cigar store. Explore three floors of exhibits about the places and people who shaped the Tampa Bay area. The History Center boasts a stunning atrium, interactive and immersive exhibits, theaters, map gallery, research center, event hall, museum store and the Columbia Cafe. Visit the website www.tampabayhistorycenter.org for further information. Hope to see you there.

Tampa Bay History Center

The new Tampa Bay History Center recently opened in its new 60,000 square-foot building. This field trip will provide an excellent opportunity to explore this state-of-the-art facility.

CGCAS has gotten a group rate of \$8.00 (cash) per person. To get this rate plan on being at the entrance at least 10 minutes early. Late arrivers will have to pay the full admission. A guided tour will begin at 10:00 AM and last one hour. Parking is \$5.00 per car/van and you can park in the "VIP east" lot next to the museum.

Directions to the Museum, which is located at 801 Old Water St. in Tampa, can be found at the Museum's website: www.tampabayhistorycenter.org

CGCAS Annual Picnic



On Sunday June 14th, CGCAS held its annual picnic at the Upper Tampa Bay Park. We had a turnout of approximately 30 people. The setting for this get together was very nice. We had a spacious covered shelter and the park offered walking trails, a nice exhibit at the visitor center, and a great environment for visiting and enjoying good friends and food.

Thanks Bob!



The Bayshore Homes archaeological investigations began in 1998 as a joint undertaking by Bob and CGCAS. For over ten years now Bob has been overseeing this project, which included a year-long excavation at the Kuttler's home, an in-depth survey of Abercrombie Park, a very intensive survey of homeowners yards, and the present excavation at the Perry's home. As Principal Investigator for this project, he has given up many Saturdays working in a professional capacity, both in the field and in the lab at Weedon Island, directing all aspects of this project. He wrote a very comprehensive Bayshore Homes report as part of the grant received for the neighborhood survey and excavations.

In appreciation for his contributions to CGCAS, the members presented Bob with a Dean Quigley print, a check for \$500, and a gas card to reimburse him for 10 years of expenses. The members and friends of CGCAS have benefited greatly from our association with Bob, working with and learning from him, and obtaining college-level knowledge and experience. It is an invaluable opportunity to participate in hands-on archaeology under the guidance of a true professional like Bob.

First "Annual" Bayshore Village Feast

On July 4th, Mac and Faye Perry held a Pre-historic Indian Feast at their home in the Bayshore Village. The pre-historic fare included food eaten by the people who lived there 1500 years ago. The menu included oysters, clams, wild onions, rabbit stew, flat

bread, deer, smoked Gulf fish, Roast Pond duck, and of course, Cassena, black drink with honey.



There were over 30 people who sampled the over 20 dishes. Thanks to all who helped Mac and Faye put this together.

Time Team America

Premiering Wednesday July 8, 2009, is *Time Team America*, a new PBS television series that is the first U.S. program dedicated to showing the nuts and bolts of archaeology in action.

Produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting and based on the popular British series *Time Team*, each program brings a team of professional archaeologists to a different archaeological site in the United States. Sites featured in this premiere season include the lost colony of Roanoke, North Carolina; the extensive Clovis and Pre-Clovis Topper Site in South Carolina; New Philadelphia, an Illinois town established by former slaves; Range Creek, a rocky valley with Fremont culture occupations in Utah; and the wild west frontier town of Fort James, South Dakota.

Time Team America's Schedule

All programs air Wednesdays, 8 PM eastern/7 PM central.

- **July 8:** *Fort Raleigh*, Roanoke Island, North Carolina, location of the lost colony of Roanoke
- **July 15:** *Topper Site*, South Carolina, where a fabulous Clovis period site is underlain by a controversial possible preclovis layer.
- **July 22:** *New Philadelphia*, Illinois, the first town founded by former slaves before the Civil War.
- **July 29:** *Range Creek*, Utah, a Fremont culture site
- **August 5:** *Fort James* South Dakota, where archaeologists are digging a Wild West frontier fort.

Each program will be available to watch on the site after it premieres.

Fire and Water Reveal New Archaeological Dating Methods

Scientists at The University of Manchester have developed a new way of dating archeological objects-using fire and water to unlock their "internal" clocks. They have discovered a new technique which they call "rehydroxylation dating" that can be used on fired clay ceramics like bricks, tile and pottery.

It has been determined that this technique can be used to determine the age of objects up to 2,000 years old with remarkable accuracy. It is believed that it may have the potential to be used to date objects around 10,000 years old.

The method relies on the fact that fired clay ceramic material will start to chemically react with atmospheric moisture as soon as it is removed from the kiln after firing. This continues over its lifetime causing it to increase in weight. The older the material, the greater the weight gain.

In 2003 the Manchester and Edinburgh team discovered a new law that precisely defines how the rate of reaction between ceramic and water varies over time. The technique involves measuring the mass of a sample of ceramic and then heating it to

around 500 degrees Celsius in a furnace, which removes the water. The sample is then monitored in a super-accurate measuring device known as a microbalance, to determine the precise rate at which the ceramic will combine with water over time.

Using the law, it is possible to extrapolate the information collected to calculate the time it will take to regain the mass lost on heating thus revealing the sample's age.

DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY: Rule Britannica?

By Jack Harvey

Encyclopaedia Britannica has a well-deserved reputation as a quality source of introductory information on a great many topics. Article authors are frequently Nobel laureates paid a small stipend to write digests of their expertise. A staff of about 100 editors ready these digests for publication in the well-known shelf of beautifully printed and illustrated books, the pride of many personal libraries and obligatory for institutional libraries. It clearly is one of the best demonstrations of the information explosion created by movable type and Gutenberg's printing press.

First published in 1768 in Edinburgh, it survived many competitors in spite of much turnover of ownership. About 1901 it came under American management and ownership. We all recall its door-to-door sales that helped stave off bankruptcy, a constant threat. The mail-order giant Sears Roebuck managed it in mid-twentieth century. Currently headquartered in Chicago, it is now owned by Swiss billionaire Jacqui Safra.

Very few continuing publications can claim a lifetime of 241 years, but Britannica has survived, maintaining a world-wide reputation for quality. And now it may be doomed by the Internet. Why, when its articles are available on the Internet can this be a threat?

(And why is this of interest to archaeologists? An encyclopedia is surely not an important source for the latest scientific investigations, comparable to *Florida Anthropologist*.)

Because a likely Britannica-killer is Wikipedia, an Internet-based upstart just eight years old. It is a powerful demonstration of an *Internet electronic forum* I discussed in "Giant Shoulders" earlier. Scientists learning to exploit this new digital tool can learn much from studying how Wikipedia works. This is a non-profit professional-level general encyclopedia available world-wide free of charge and advertising. A global forum of 150,000 members has written over 11 million articles that can be updated daily. This is at least a hundred times *larger* than the for-profit commercial Britannica.

Surely this must be low-level amateur material, a poor substitute for the professionally written and edited Britannica articles with their long history of scholastic quality? You be the judge. Go to www.wikipedia.org and put "archaeology" in the search box in the left column. (The site includes a powerful search engine, a faster version of Britannica's printed "Propaedia" index.) Read the opening paragraphs of the article displayed. Notice the dozens of pointers (blue type) to other scholarly articles. Click on some to see the instant access to details when you want them. Look at the color photos of major artifacts and sites.

Each Wikipedia article includes tabs at the top above the title to see current discussions about the article, edit in your changes, plus the history of the article development.

This is because each article is not just one person blogging, twittering or texting. Instead, every article is often the result of many people working as a team to get it right. Errors are quickly spotted and corrected since this is an on-going process. Just because an article is "published" and on public view doesn't mean it's cast in stone. It's digital and therefore instantly changeable. And YOU are invited to join and suggest your own corrections, improvements or additions.

To see more archaeology articles in Wikipedia, try the following three in the site search box: "Calusa", "Weedon Island Preserve" and "Key Marco". These articles are very brief and incomplete, but again you are asked to correct, expand and flesh out the work of other volunteers.

Wikipedia is owned by Jimmy Wales of St. Petersburg, FL and his paid staff is currently just twenty-three. Compare that with Jacqui Safra's staff of about 100 people to manage Britannica. Safra collects money from you to read his encyclopedia while Wales lets you examine all 11 million articles for free. Yes, Wales asks for donations to cover his roughly six million dollars annual expenses. A significant part of his expense is the computer equipment that displays Wikipedia articles to roughly 275 million people every month.

Neither Safra nor Wales consider these properties cash cows. Both are probably happy if they simply don't lose money while promoting knowledge. Which will win the battle probably doesn't seriously matter to us, although I will feel a personal loss if Britannica disappears. What is important to archaeologists (and other scientists) is the power of the Internet for collaborative professional-level work that Wikipedia demonstrates. Although real scientific invention and discovery is usually by an individual, the all-important peer review, corroboration and generalization is always by a scientific community. We have been building these communities for several centuries with travel and university campuses. Wikipedia shows how to do it with the Internet for much less expense and far faster.

Wiki-wiki is Hawaiian for quick. *Wiki* is acquiring a new meaning as a collaborative Web site allowing user editing and additions to content. Quick is easy on the Internet but the trick is avoiding graffiti and nonsense while building a scholarly scientific community of peers. Wikipedia can be used as a free university showing how to accomplish this digital miracle.

Send suggestions for topics and comments to: jakharve@earthlink.net

FAS Membership

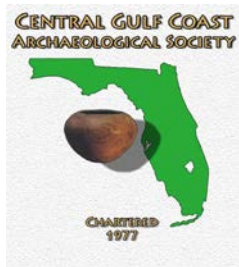
The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources and community education. Membership is made up of both professional and avocational archaeologists. Benefits of membership include the journal *The Florida Anthropologist*, 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 - \$500; Benefactor - \$2500 or more.

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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

