
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2007

Editor: David Burns



Bayshore Homes Project

We are continuing to processing the material recovered from the column sample in Test Unit 2 at Bayshore Homes. We will continue to sort this material at Weedon Island on Saturdays at 10:00am. On Saturday August 18th we will begin excavating Test Unit 3. On Monday August 20th and proceeding through Wednesday, Dr. Glen Doran and Dr. John Foss will visit the site. Dr. Doran who is best known for his Windover site, will be bringing his coring equipment. Four cores will be drilled on the midden to help determine the depositional history and also the age correlations of its building. Dr. Foss is a soil scientist and he will be looking at the sediment coming from the cores, including the sand layers. He will be able to tell whether they were deposited by dunes or are beach sands. This will add important information to better understanding of this significant site.

Since there is still a lot of sorting to be done from Test Unit 2, we may divide up the crew with some doing work in the lab while the others will be helping in the field. These tasks can rotate from week to week. There is still time to join us in this exciting and important project. 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.

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### FAS 2008 Committees

The planning for the 2008 FAS Annual Meeting in Tampa continues. This meeting is only 9 months away and is coming up fast. The chairs of the committees are to meeting to make sure all is on track to make this another memorable meeting.

The people below agreed to chair the committees. They still need help and your assistance and ideas will be greatly appreciated. Thanks to those who have already signed up and for the rest of you, please consider volunteering on one of these committees:

*Program Committee:* Chair, Dr. Bob Austin  
([bob@searchinc.com](mailto:bob@searchinc.com))

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

*Registration Committee:* Chair, Chris Hardy  
([kastoagirl@yahoo.com](mailto:kastoagirl@yahoo.com))

*Public Relations Committee:* Chair, Linda Allred  
([lallred@mybluelight.com](mailto:lallred@mybluelight.com))

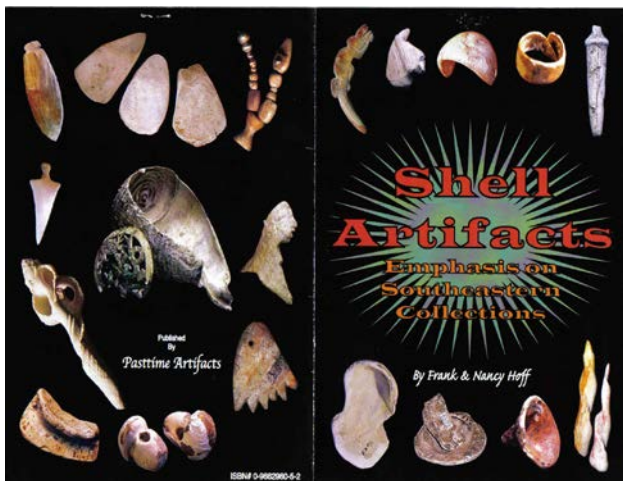
### Donation Insert

Enclosed in this issue is a request for donations for the 2008 FAS Annual meeting to be hosted by CGCAS. The meeting will be held May 2-4 in historic Ybor City. Your donations, which are tax deductible, will help make this a memorable event.

On the subject of donations, CGCAS is currently conducting the Bayshore Homes project

and will be doing others in the future. Donations to help cover the cost of carbon dating, analysis, equipment, etc. will also be greatly appreciated. CGCAS is undertaking an important survey here that is going to add significant knowledge about this site. Thank you in advance for your donation(s).

## New Publication



Front and back covers of the book

### Shell Artifacts

*With Emphasis on Southeast Collections*

*Pages - 177 in an 8.5 x 11 inch format Photos and illustrations - over 735*

*References - 115*

*Heavy waterproof varnished soft cover*

*Pages 80 pound gloss paper*

*Full color printing*

Chapters Include

Chapter 1 - Historical and Contemporary Shell Use

Chapter 2 - Introduction

Chapter 3 - Shell Species Commonly Utilized

Chapter 4 - Trade Routes and Trading

Chapter 5 - Spoons, Scoops and Scrapers

Chapter 6 - Dippers, Cups and Bowls

Chapter 7 - Celts, Adzes, Wedges, Gouges, Choppers and Hoes

Chapter 8 - Awls, Drills, Punches, Burins and Knives

Chapter 9 - Picks and Hammers

Chapter 10 - Bead Jewelry

Chapter 11 - Gorgets and Pendants

Chapter 12 - Plummets

Chapter 13 - Miscellaneous and Unknowns

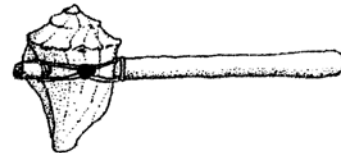
Chapter 14 - Value, Condition and Authenticity

## Chapter 15 – Bibliography

This is not your usual picture book like many other artifact publications nor is it a pricing guide. It is written in simple but very descriptive language. Many items are described in depth including beads, money, tools, drinking cups, drills, fishing weights, effigies, hammers and much more. It is intended to serve as a manual for learning about the many shell artifacts including how they were made, where the shell came from, how they were used and when they were used. Some concepts are theoretical in an effort to provide "food for further thought". This is an excellent reference manual for avocational and professional archeologists.

This new book on shell artifacts has been written and published by Frank and Nancy Hoff. They were founding members of CGCAS and continue to be active preservationists.

The cost of the book is \$40.00 plus \$3.50 postage and handling. They can be ordered from *Pasttime Artifacts*, 33418 Old St. Joe Road, Dade City, FL 33525. They can also be ordered by phone, (352) 567-3170, or Fax (352) 567-3642. Checks will be accepted but shipment will be delayed 7-10 days. Credit cards can be accepted by mail, fax or phone.



## Shadows and Reflections on DVD

The award winning film, *Shadows and Reflections: Florida's Lost People* is now available on DVD. This was produced by the Florida Anthropological Society and funded by the Florida Department of State. Copies were distributed to chapters at the recent FAS board meeting at Weedon Island. Each chapter received one copy for their use and showing.

Additional copies can be purchased for \$20.00 which includes tax and shipping. Retailers can purchase the DVD for \$12.00. Send you order to Terry Simpson at 9907 High Meadow Ave., Thonotosassa, FL 33592. He can also be reached at [tsimpson@shell.cas.usf.edu](mailto:tsimpson@shell.cas.usf.edu) and (813) 629-8821.

## In the News

### UF takes over running of historic sites

*Sites in St. Augustine dating back hundreds of years and needing millions of dollars for renovations are now in the hands of the University of Florida.*

The gray masonry Government House in a plaza here survived as the home and headquarters for Spanish and British rule for more than 200 years. It was reconstructed from ruins several times during the colonial era, once after being burnt and reduced to rubble by the British.

But now the two-story structure faces its toughest and most expensive challenge yet -- the destructive powers of aging.

It is not alone. It is among 31 historic buildings that have become too costly for the local government to maintain and repair, so the University of Florida has taken over their management in the oldest continuously occupied city in the United States.

Some structures date to the 18th century, but about two-thirds are restorations built as late as the 1970s mainly on the original foundations.

For the past decade, the city has been leasing the buildings for \$1 a year from the state, but the \$1.5 million in rent from the shops and restaurants that occupy them is not enough to provide for upkeep. The city has been providing about \$200,000 a year for maintenance. The crumbling history is a problem for a city whose main tourism draw is its colonial allure.

St. Augustine was founded in 1565, 42 years before the English colonized Jamestown and 55 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. It is known for its imposing 17th century coquina stone Spanish fort, the Castillo de San Marco, and all manner of tourist attractions from souvenir shops in historic buildings to ghost tours to the supposed "Fountain of Youth."

The University of Florida took over the properties July 1, and its architects and engineers have dug through archives stored at Government House and hauled off stacks of documents to study in Gainesville.

Some university classes have been taught in the city for years, and UF archaeologist Kathleen Deagan has unearthed buried secrets under centuries of dirt and muck, including the location of Fort Mose. It was established by escaped African-born slaves who fled British plantations in the Carolinas to seek freedom in Spanish Florida.

*Excerpts from an article by Ron Word in the July 22, 2007 Miami Herald*

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More on the Clovis First Issue

Editor's note: An article in the *most recent issue of the Mammoth Trumpet* declares that the Clovis First model makes no sense. This pronouncement is almost sure to draw strong rebuttals from pro Clovis First proponents. The CGCAS has no intention of taking part in the Clovis First issue. However, since the Clovis culture plays such an important part in our study of the past, it is believed that members would like to keep abreast of the thinking of both sides of the controversy. Published rebuttal(s) will also be shown if they appear at a later date.

CLOVIS DETHRONED

Excerpts from the July '07 issue of the Mammoth Trumpet

Like any science, American archaeology has its own long standing and cherished theories. In the face of new evidence however, it appears that one of the most abiding, the Clovis-First model must now bow out of the debate. According to CSFA* research published in the 23 February 2007 issue of *Science*, Mike Waters and geochronologist Tom Stafford, using revised radio carbon dating, stated that "it's impossible for the Clovis people to be the First Americans." This dating project started because they realized that the age of Clovis has been based on radiocarbon dates using old radiocarbon technologies or unreliable carbon types. Also, the standard deviations on many of them were very large.

In order to accurately determine the revised age range for Clovis, Waters and Stafford acquired 43 radiocarbon samples from documented Clovis sites. New dates were then generated on bone, charcoal and seeds, using highly accurate accelerated mass spectrometer (AMS) dating methods.

Waters and Stafford found that their new dates fell between a minimum range of 13,125-12,925 CALBP and a maximum range of 13,250-12,800 CALBP. This gave Clovis duration some 200 to 240 years, a relative eye-blink in archaeological terms. These findings show that: "We have Clovis people living in North and South America at the same time. So how could this make Clovis first?" Then there are demographic objections. It's unlikely that hunter-gatherers entering the New World from the north could have traveled to the southern tip of South America in less than 500 years. Says Waters, "It just wasn't enough time for people to adapt to environments..... This just didn't make sense if Clovis were the first to enter the Americas."

* Center for the Study of the First Americans
Submitted by Pete Peterson

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The Society

Membership

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 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



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P.O. Box 340705,
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Dues

Regular	\$20.00
Student	10.00
Family	25.00
Life	150.00