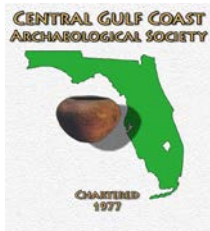

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

www.cgcas.org



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August-September 2012

35 Years of Promoting Florida's Rich Heritage



Editor: David Burns

September Meeting

Thursday September 20, 2012

at

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

7 – 8 PM.



Scott Burnett, Ph.D., Eckerd College

The Bioarchaeology of Promptin Tai (Thailand)

Promptin Tai is a multi-component site in central Thailand occupied during the late prehistoric (Bronze Age-Iron Age) and historic periods (Dvaravati-Ayutthaya). Excavations have been carried out in 2009 and 2011 and bioarchaeological examination of the Iron Age burials, including both skeletal and dental indicators of health and disease, has recently been completed. Preliminary analysis has revealed evidence of dental caries, trauma, cribra orbitalia, and minor developmental anomalies. The implications of these pathologies and their frequency within the sample will be discussed.

These programs are free and open to the public. Please register at least 24 hours prior to this event by visiting www.pinellascountyextension.org, clicking the "Online Registration" button, and then choosing the "Weedon Island" tab. You can also call 727-453-6500 to register.

2012-2013 Lecture Series

We have another excellent Lecture Series planned for the coming year. The lectures are presented on the third Thursday of the month at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Island Drive NE, St. Petersburg, Florida. Presented below are the Fall 2012 speakers. Mark your calendar and we look forward to seeing you there.

Thursday, September 20, 2012: Scott Burnett, Ph.D., Eckerd College, *The Bioarchaeology of Promtin Tai (Thailand)*

Thursday, October 18, 2012: Deborah Mullins, M.A., University of Florida, *Displayed Magic: The Archaeological Study of Religious Beliefs and Popular Magic via the Material Culture of Late Spanish Colonial Households in Florida*

Thursday, November 15, 2012: Robert Sinibaldi, Ph.D., Paleontologist & Author, *Cultural Modification of Vertebrate Fossils*

Thursday, December 20, 2012: Rachel Wentz, Ph.D., Florida Public Archaeology Network, East Central Region, *Life and Death at Windover: Excavations of 7,000-year-old Pond Cemetery*

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to CGCAS. Jose Pena

Erin Mckendry

Justin Vogias

It should be noted that CGCAS is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS). However, membership in CGCAS does not mean you are a member of FAS which is a separate organization. To apply for membership in FAS, visit its web site www.fasweb.org.

Salvage Investigation at Phillippe Park



On July 3, 2012, CGCAS members Cindy Martin, Phyllis Kolianos, Lou Claudio, and Dave Burns responded to a report of a tree that had fallen over after a recent storm at Phillippe Park in Safety Harbor (8PI2). Before the tree ball was excavated, the disturbed area around it was screened and checked for artifacts. The roots of the tree were then systematically removed and also screened. This salvage project produced a variety of shell, primarily oyster with some being almost 5" in length. Several pieces of Pinellas Plain pottery were recovered as well as a lithic flake. Faunal material included fish bone, shark tooth, and a deer bone. Some other items found included glass shards and nails.

Murphy Village Mound

The Murphy Village Mound site 8PI44, is located on the Anclote River in Tarpon Springs. Phyllis Kolianos has done extensive research on this area and was able to obtain permission to put in a 1X2 meter excavation on the midden overlooking the river. During this excavation CGCAS members Chris Hardy, Chris Hunt, Cindy Martin, Cheryl Shaughnessy, Bob Austin, and Dave Burns provided help. Several interesting features and artifacts were observed or recovered. Good examples of Carrabelle Incised pottery were found as well as a check-stamped sherd, a burnished Weedon Island Plain sherd, and some sand tempered plain.



A series of possible post molds were noted and pedestaled. One of these features has the characteristic shape (see above left) but the most interesting thing found was at the base. A large concentration of black material was recovered. A sample is shown above. This material continued to occur to a depth of over 80cm. The pieces are dark in color, hard, and some appear to have possibly been molten at one time (see picture on right above). Some are weakly magnetic and there were a few pieces of material that had a copper oxide coating. Identification of this material has not been determined and hopefully will be analyzed at USF.

Another feature was a probable hearth feature in the north wall of the unit. Two shell dippers or cup were found at the top with one being almost on top of the other. Several pieces of pottery were also recovered from this feature along with abundant fish bone and charcoal. Sorting and analysis of the recovered artifacts is continuing.

A NEW SITE AT FT. DE SOTO PARK, PINELLAS CO., FL

By Frank Bushnell and Linda Allred - March 2012

Madelaine Key is a pretty little island, one of the smallest among the five islands that make up the Ft. DeSoto Park chain. It is located in Tampa Bay just off the southern tip of Pinellas County. On the upper NE side of this island lies an undisturbed midden, hidden away in the mangroves. The site consists of a series of 6 mostly conical shell heaps scattered over an area deep within this mangrove marsh. It was our intention to survey and record this previously undocumented site.

The “shell heaps” are from 2 to 3 feet in height, with some parts of the midden inundated at high tide. The area in which they are contained extends generally from north to south for approximately 150 feet, with an average width of 75 feet from east to west. Between this midden area and the beach lies a 1-foot high sand ridge running the length of the midden area.

Surface midden is composed of loose shells, often whole. Two 1-meter squares were marked off with tape; loose shells were examined and replaced to a depth of about 1 foot. Specimen counts were determined by sorting and noting the number of shell species contained within these squares. A probe rod indicated depths of about 1½ feet below ground level.

The most remarkable characteristic of the midden is its composition: oyster shells are extremely rare here, and the most numerous shell by far is the lightning whelk. Pear whelks bring up a distant second, being only about a third as common as the lightning whelk. Other gastropods as well as bivalves are represented, but in much smaller percentages. Table 1 indicates the molluscans represented here.

The shell deposits are quite free of dirt and other debris, washed clean by tidal action. Almost all shells show evidence of harvesting, particularly the puncturing of the gastropod shells. It was obvious that each of the gastropod species was punctured through the shell in a location seemingly appropriate for that specific type, i.e., the outer whorl in the lightning whelks and horse conchs, and breaks in spire points of the pear whelk shells. Univalves at this midden tend to be whole, or nearly whole, with many large specimens in evidence.

It is interesting to speculate that since the nearest sizeable village middens lie at a distance of ½ to nearly 2 miles to the north and east, perhaps the shellfish meats were harvested at the site and transported from the island without the added weight of the shells. The nearest known sites are located at Cabbage Key (now Tierra Verde). The Cabbage Key burial mound excavated by William Sears, and additional middens, are less than a mile due north of this site. The village and middens of the Maximo Park/Maximo Point sites lie about 2 miles north on the mainland of Pinellas County. The nearest

freshwater is a pond, presently located on the adjacent Cabbage Key, about ½ mile north.

The island has very little high ground above the mangrove line, and the flora of this high ground consists of a dense growth of cabbage palms, live oak, buttonwood, Dahlbergia, Cedar, Nickerbean, with the usually anticipated succulents also present, such as saltwort and prickly pear. Also present: Tallowwood, Slash Pine, Marlberry, Eugenia, and non-native Australian Pines.

Two shell artifacts and 13 previously surface-collected sand-tempered plain sherds are further evidence of the archaeological significance of this site. The shell artifacts, both made from lightning whelks, consisted of one large notched body fragment with edges ground smooth, and a lightning whelk pick or hammer, broken but clearly recognizable.

Finally, mention should be made of a curious deposit of columellas of various sizes, located in a small area at the southern-most part of the midden as it tapers down to ground level.

The Fort Desoto Youth Camp Midden lies in a nearly pristine state. It has been recorded with the state of Florida as 8PI12009. Perhaps future investigations could help determine the age of shell deposits and how the site was utilized by previous cultures.

Table 1. Molluscan Remains for 1m X 1m Test Squares

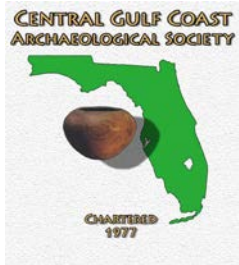
Common Name	Scientific Name	Test 1	Test 2
Lightning Whelk	<i>Busycon contrarium</i>	102	100
Pear Whelk	<i>Busycon spiratum</i>	32	31
Bay Scallop	<i>Argopecten irradians</i>	12	0
Quahog Clam	<i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i>	7	4
Fighting Conch	<i>Strombus alatus</i>	6	3
Florida Crown Conch	<i>Melongena corona</i>	6	0
Common Cockle	<i>Cerastoderma edule</i>	6	0
Tulip	<i>Fasciolaria</i> sp.	6	4
Fig Shell	Ficidae	6	4
Horse Conch	<i>Pleuroploca gigantea</i>	3	2
Bloody Clam	Arcidae	3	0
Great Heart Cockle	<i>Dinocardium robustum</i>	2	2
Oyster	<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>	2	0

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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

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 Cheryl Shaughnessy at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL

	Dues
Regular	\$20.00
Student	10.00
Family	25.00
Life	150.00