

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society



Newsletter

| SEPTEMBER 2018 |

41 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE
CGCAS IS A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Upcoming Lecture:

Thursday, September 20th, 7pm

New Histories of Village Life at Crystal River

*Thomas J. Pluckhahn, PhD
Professor, University of South Florida*



Today, more than half of the earth's 7 billion people live in cities, and we take the benefits—and challenges—of urban life as a given. But the vast majority of human history was lived in communities of much smaller size. For social and biological scientists, the decision our ancestors made to begin living in larger communities is part of the larger puzzle of the evolution of cooperation: why and how did individuals choose to subsume their self-interests to those of larger social groups? The transition to village life began some 10,000 years ago in the Middle East. In eastern North America, villages became common in the Woodland period, from around 1000 BC to AD 1050. Among the more prominent of these was the village that developed at the famous Crystal River site, north of Tampa. Recent research at Crystal River contributes to our understanding of the way villages form, grow, and eventually dissolve.

Tom Pluckhahn is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida with a research focus on the archaeology of small-scale social formations of the native Southeastern United States. He has published numerous articles and books, including *Kolomoki: Settlement, Ceremony, and Status in the Deep South, ca. A.D. 350 to 750* (University of Alabama Press, 2003), *Light on the Path: The Anthropology and History of the Southeastern Indians* (with Robbie Ethridge, University of Alabama Press, 2006), and *New Histories of Village Life at Crystal River* (with Victor Thompson, University Press of Florida, 2018).

The monthly CGCAS Archaeology Lecture series is sponsored by the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE) and held at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center in St Petersburg. All talks are free and open to the public. Registration is not required, but to RSVP please go to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CGCASflorida or to the Weedon Island Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/weedon-island-preserve-cultural-and-natural-history-center-1250121017>

New CGCAS Officers for 2018-2019

President: Dave Burns
Vice President: Becky O'Sullivan
Treasurer: Heather Draskovich
Secretary: Linda Allred
Membership: Kassie Kemp

Directors: Chris Hardy
Marcie Connors
Tom Connors
Cheryl Shaughnessy
Michael Mann
Kassie Kemp
Jaime Rogers

Mark Your Calendar for our Upcoming Speakers!

Thursday, October 18th, 7pm

Manasota Key Offshore: A Prehistoric Cemetery in the Gulf of Mexico

Ryan M. Duggins, PhD

Underwater Archaeology Supervisor, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research

An unexpected discovery by a fossil hunter diving a quarter-mile off Manasota Key near Venice, Florida, has led to a groundbreaking archaeological project that could change everything scientists thought they knew about offshore archaeology. Investigations by the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research at the Manasota Key Offshore site (8SO7030) revealed evidence of a prehistoric Native American burial site in what appears to have been a freshwater peat-



bottomed pond thousands of years ago. Ongoing archaeological investigation revealed multiple discrete areas containing peat, worked wooden stakes that were used in burial practice, and the remains of multiple individuals. Radiocarbon dating of two stakes dated them to more than 7,200 years old. When this site was in use, the waters of the Gulf of Mexico were about 30 feet below their current level. This talk presents results from remote sensing investigations and underwater archaeological documentation while addressing long term management plans for this delicate and unique site.

Thursday, November 15th, 7pm

Marks of Identity: The Ethnobotany of Tattooing

Anna Dixon, PhD

University of South Florida St Petersburg

The resurgence of interest in traditional tattooing, as well as concern about the safety of commercial inks, has led to a search for “natural,” “traditional,” products for tattoos. Scientific techniques for visualizing and analyzing ancient tattoos preserved on mummified human remains have been able to identify minerals and “pyrolyzed plant particles” (soot) in ancient tattoos, but not the plant taxa themselves. Ethnographic studies of traditional tattooing have focused largely on tattoo motifs, meaning and tool technology, with less emphasis on the botanical materials involved. While it is true that “soot” from burned plant material is the most common tattoo pigment, a variety of other plants were traditionally used to produce tattoos by either injecting colors under the skin or via the activity of irritant chemicals that produced tattoo-like marks. Indigenous peoples around the world have used a variety of plant substances to produce tattoos for therapeutic, decorative, commemorative or ritual reasons; the rarity of the tattooing plant itself sometimes also lent extra meaning and significance to the tattoo. This paper looks at tattooing plants cross-culturally, with a focus on Oceania and North America.

Thursday, December 20th, 7pm

Ethnoarchaeology of Fishing on the Florida Gulf Coast

Ginessa J. Mahar, PhD Candidate

Department of Anthropology, University of Florida

Description coming soon!

More on Archaeology at the Crystal River Site

By: Becky O'Sullivan

Located in Citrus County, along the winding river of the same name, the Crystal River archaeological site has intrigued archaeologists for more than 100 years. We don't know what the ancient Native peoples who built the site called it, but the various mounds and finely crafted objects they left behind tell us that they lived at the site for more than a thousand years – from around AD 50 to AD 1050. Archaeologists think of the Crystal River site as a village where people lived, but also as a place where visitors came to trade goods and information, or take part in communal projects and ceremonies. The people of Crystal River made tools and fine crafts mostly from local resources, but also used exotic materials like copper and quartz crystal. People traded for these items from as far away as present-day Ohio and Michigan in exchange for valuable shells native to the gulf coast.

Just as people today have built up our modern cities over time, many generations of Native Americans transformed the landscape at the Crystal River site to fit their vision of an enduring community. The remains of these impressive structures are still visible throughout the Crystal River Archaeological State Park including: two burial mounds, a 28-foot-tall flat topped mound you can walk to the top of, several smaller mounds, an open plaza area, and enigmatic stones known as stelae.

The people who lived at the Crystal River site did not disappear overnight. Some moved just across the river to build a new community and set of mounds (now known as the Roberts Island site) while other people likely left for smaller communities on the shell islands



New interpretive signs at the Crystal River Site help visitors picture what it would have been like to live there long ago.

closer to the Gulf of Mexico. The Roberts Island site is not accessible to the public, but you can see it from the Crystal River Preserve Office just up the road from the Archaeological Park.

From 2011-2013 Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn from the University of South Florida led a new round of archaeological investigations at the site. Pluckhahn was able to re-locate old excavation units from Ripley Bullen, and utilized modern methods like coring and ground penetrating radar to get a more accurate view of how the site was built up over time. His work paints an exciting picture of the cosmopolitan community that Crystal River once was. You can read more about his findings in his new book: [“New Histories of Village Life at Crystal River”](#) available from the [University of Florida Press](#).



FAR LEFT: Florida panther molar found by Dr. Pluckhahn in a core excavated during fieldwork in 2008. The surface of the tooth was extensively ground, perhaps as a result of its use as a tool or in preparation for its use as a pendant.

CENTER: Various shell and stone objects found by Dr. Pluckhahn and his students at the Crystal River site. These artifacts provide a unique window into the people who once visited and lived at this site.

For more on this project go to: <https://www.facebook.com/crystalriverarchaeology/>



“Native America” Premieres Tuesday, October 23 on your Local PBS Station

Great new show coming to PBS in October, at 9pm. Thanks to Lou Claudio for bringing this to my attention. Be sure to check it out!

NATIVE AMERICA is a four-part PBS series that challenges everything we thought we knew about the Americas before and since contact with Europe. It travels through 15,000-years to showcase massive cities, unique systems of science, art, and writing, and 100 million people connected by social networks and spiritual beliefs spanning two continents. The series reveals some of the most advanced cultures in human history and the Native American people who created it and whose legacy continues, unbroken, to this day.

The series explores this extraordinary world through an unprecedented combination of cutting edge science and traditional indigenous knowledge. It is Native America as never seen before—featuring sacred rituals filmed for the first time, history changing scientific discoveries, and rarely heard voices from the living legacy of Native American culture.

Each hour of Native America explores Great Nations and reveals cities, sacred stories, and history that has long been hidden in plain sight. In America’s Southwest, First People emerge from the earth to build stone skyscrapers with untold spiritual power, and transform deserts to fertile fields. In New York, warriors renounce war and found America’s first democracy five hundred years before the Declaration of Independence – and later inspire a young Benjamin Franklin. On the banks of the Mississippi, rulers raise a metropolis of pyramids from swampland and draw thousands of pilgrims to their new city to worship the sky. And in the American West, nomads transform a weapon of conquest into a new way of life, turning the tables on European Invaders, and building an empire.

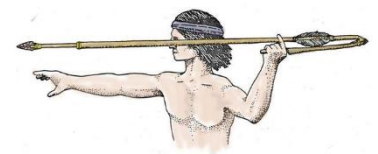


Volunteer

Archaeology Lab

Friday, Sep 28, 10 – Noon

Weedon Island Preserve
Cultural and Natural
History Center, 1800
Weedon Dr NE, St Pete



Archaeology Works: Hunting Tech

Sat., Sep 29, 11 – Noon

Weedon Island Preserve
Cultural and Natural History
Center, 1800 Weedon Dr
NE, St Pete

The Ceramic Technology Lab at the Florida Museum of Natural History

By: Lindsay Bloch

Ceramic Technology Laboratory, University of Florida

The Ceramic Technology Laboratory at the Florida Museum of Natural History is celebrating over 40 years of research and training. Visit the updated website to explore our recent projects, ranging from analyses of complicated stamped pottery to Mayan mortars and sauerkraut crocks!

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/ceramiclab/> In addition to images of Florida pottery types, we have new Georgia image galleries online, with additional galleries for other parts of the southeastern US coming later this summer.

The publication Ceramic Notes, edited by Prudence Rice, has also been digitized and is freely available through our site. Ann Cordell, emerita lab manager, has established an endowment to support student research and training in the lab. To contribute to this fund, [please visit here](#). Follow us on Twitter @CeramicTechLab.



Kolomoki complicated stamped pottery in the Georgia type collection, Ceramic Technology Lab.



Volunteer Dr. Jerry Kidder preparing clay samples in the Ceramic Technology Lab.

CGCAS will Co-Host the Next Florida Anthropological Society Annual Meeting and Conference



In partnership with the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), we are excited to announce that CGCAS will be hosting the next Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) Annual Meeting and Conference in Crystal River. The FAS Annual Conference brings together avocational archaeologists, students, interested members of the public, and professional archaeologists for a day of talks on the latest archaeological research from across the state of Florida.

The 2019 annual meeting and conference will be held at the Plantation on Crystal River hotel, with an opening reception at the Crystal River Archaeological State Park. Keep an eye out for more information, we will be looking for volunteers who would like to help out with the conference. Interested in getting involved? Email Becky O'Sullivan at rosulliv@usf.edu for more information.

View CGCAS Lectures Online



Did you miss out on hearing one of our fantastic speakers last lecture series? Fear not! You can now watch past CGCAS lectures online.

For our most recent talks head on over to the CGCAS Facebook page at this link and check out our "Videos" section: www.facebook.com/pg/CGCASflorida/videos .

For an archive on speakers from years past check out our website: <https://www.cgcas.org/videos>



The Society

The 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 Kassie Kemp at kkemp@mail.usf.edu for more information.

Dues

Individual	\$25.00
Student	\$12.00
Family	\$30.00

Contact Us

You can find us online at the links below:

Website:

<https://www.cgcas.org/>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CGCASflorida/

Central Gulf Coast
Archaeological Society

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