
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2008



Editor: David Burns

October Meeting

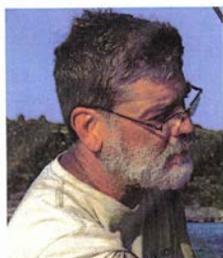
Thursday October 16th

at

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

7 – 8 PM.

Shell Net Weights from Key Marco & Puerto Rico: New Perspectives on Aboriginal Fishing Technology



William F. Keegan, Ph.D.



Lindsey T. Keegan

William F. Keegan, Ph.D. & Lindsey T. Keegan

This month's presentation features William F. Keegan, Ph.D. from the Florida Museum of Natural History and Lindsey T. Keegan from the University of Florida. Enormous shell middens along the coast of southwest Florida and the substantial quantities of marine fish bones and shells in Caribbean sites are testimony to the importance of marine resources in both areas. Yet, at least in the Caribbean, very little attention has been paid to the secondary uses of shells for tools. This talk focuses on the use of shell as manufactured net weights from two important sites, and discusses the implications for a more comprehensive understanding of native fishing practices. This program is co-sponsored by the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center and is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is requested. For further information or to register, call (727) 453-6500.

Bayshore Homes Project

Work on the Bayshore Homes Project has resumed. We are again meeting at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center on Saturday mornings at 10:00am. We are currently sorting artifacts but will resume field work this fall when it cools off some. Everyone is invited to join us in this project.

2009 FAS Annual Meeting

The Pensacola Archaeological Society (PAS) will host the 61st annual FAS meeting in Pensacola on May 8-9, 2009. Celebration of Pensacola's settlement 450 years ago by Don Tristan de Luna y Arellano will be occurring throughout the year and the FAS Annual Meeting will be a part of those festivities. The meetings will be held at the Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand Hotel (200 E. Gregory St., 850-433-3336) located downtown near the Historic District. The Friday evening reception is going to be held at the T. T. Wentworth, Jr., Florida State Museum in the Historic District where exhibits showcase the many groups of people who have lived in the Pensacola area.

Papers and posters will be presented on Saturday in the Crowne Plaza meeting rooms. Books and other wares will be available in the bookroom, also located in the Crowne Plaza.

The Saturday night banquet will be held at the Museum of Commerce in the Historic District. Dinner will be a delicious fish fry catered by Chet's Seafood and will include mullet, grouper, catfish, chicken fingers, grits, hushpuppies, beans, cornbread and iced tea (and other drinks).

Several field trips to local sites are being planned for Sunday. In addition, there will be a re-enactment of the Battle of Pensacola going on the same weekend.

September Meeting Presentation

On Thursday, September 18th, John William (Billy Ray) Morris III gave a very interesting presentation entitled "The Archaeological Investigation of Tampa's Maritime Past". In addition to explaining how modern technology is used to identify potential shipwrecks, Morris also discussed the documentation of several important discoveries, including a Civil War sloop, the *Kate Dale*, that was found in the Hillsborough River, and the *USS Naricissus*, an armed Union tugboat that sank off of Egmont Key. The most recent issue of *American Archaeology* magazine, a quarterly publication of the Archeological Conservancy, featured an article on Morris's research. This meeting was one of the best attended that we have had in a long time with 73 people present.

CGCAS Lecture Series 2008-2009

Our lecture series for 2008-2009 will include a wide variety of topics and geographic areas: prehistoric, historic, and underwater archaeology conducted in Florida, the Caribbean, and the Yucatan. All the presentations will be at the Weedon Island Preserve and Cultural and Natural History Center. The dates are the second Thursday of the month with the lectures beginning at 7 pm. They are free and open to the public. Further information will be presented in future newsletters regarding each month's presentation.

October 16, 2008 – *William Keegan*, Ph.D. and *Lindsay Keegan* - Shell Net Weights from Key Marco and Puerto Rico: New Perspectives on Aboriginal Fishing Technology

November 21, 2008 – *James P Pepe*, M.A. - Lakeside Ranch: A Glimpse of Early Settlement along Lake Okeechobee

December 18, 2008 – *Robert Tykot*, Ph.D. – Using Portable XRF for Elemental Analysis of Stone, Metal, Ceramic, Bone, Soil & Other Archaeological Materials

January 15, 2009 – *Barbara Purdy*, Ph.D. – Early Human Occupation of Florida

February 19, 2009 – *Michael Russo*, Ph.D. - Discovering C.B. Moore's Lost Mounds and Rings in North Florida

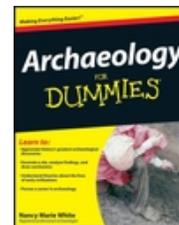
March 19, 2009 – *Uzi Baram*, Ph.D. – Looking for Angola: New Approaches & Evidence in the Search for an Early 19th Century Maroon Community on the Manatee River

April 16, 2009 – *Allan Meyers*, Ph.D. – Lost Hacienda: Reconstructing the Lives of Laborers on a Yucatan Plantation

In Print and in the News

This is a reminder that a great resource is now available online. As announced a few months ago, all volumes of the *Florida Anthropologist* from 1948 to 2005 have been scanned by the University of Florida Special Studies Collections. The original journals are accessible for those doing research or for those who just want to read the back issues. At the present time you cannot copy or print from the website. If you want to check this out go to <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/UFDC/UFDC.aspx?s=flant&b=UF00027829>. It's a long address but well worth the effort. Remember, only journals up to 2005 are included.

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Dr. Nancy White states that the publisher, Wiley, is still making changes to *Archeology for Dummies* including the cover. Other modifications are being made; however, her book is still scheduled for release in October.



*An objective guide to this fascinating science of history and culture*

Archaeology continually makes headlines--from recent discoveries like the frozen Copper-Age man in the Italian Alps to the newest dating of the first people in America at over 14,000 years ago. *Archeology for Dummies* offers a fascinating look at this intriguing field, taking readers on-site and revealing little-known details about some of the world's greatest archaeological discoveries. It explores how archaeology attempts to uncover the lives of our ancestors, examining historical dig sites around the world and explaining theories about ancient human societies. The guide also offers helpful information for readers who want to participate in an excavation themselves, as well as tips for getting the best training and where to look for jobs. *Nancy Marie White (Tampa, FL) is a registered professional archaeologist and Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida, Tampa.*

## Up Coming Event

### Bayshore Homes Archaeology Project Completion

**Saturday, September 27.** Sacred Lands (Narvarez/Anderson site), 1620 Park Street N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710, PH: 727-347-0354

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. Refreshments (water, soda, coffee) and some snacks will be available for a minor charge.

This event will officially thank the Bayshore Homeowners and the CGCAS members who so generously supported the Project.

Gates open at 6:00 PM (tours of site by Eric Anderson and Greenhouse archaeology displays) with presentations beginning at 7:00 PM.

*Mac Perry* (unofficial major of Parque Narvaez') will give a 15 minute introduction about the history of the neighborhood.

*Dr. Bob Austin* will give a one hour overview of the Bayshore Homes Archaeology Survey Conclusions followed by a fifteen minute Q & A session.

## Help With Survey

Dawn Hayes would still like to hear from you. In the July newsletter we enclosed a copy of the survey she is doing for her Ph.D. dissertation and she has only received a handful of responses. So please take the time to fill out the survey and send it to her at: P.O. Box 292636, Tampa, FL, 33687 or email it to her at [hayes.dawn@gmail.com](mailto:hayes.dawn@gmail.com).

## Dr. Charles W. Arnade Dies

Dr. Charles Arnade, a distinguished professor emeritus of international studies and former President of the Florida Anthropological Society, died September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Dr. Arnade taught for more than 50 years in Florida universities and was a charter faculty member of the University of South Florida. He was also a visiting professor and lecturer at numerous academic institutions in this country and abroad. He served as FAS President in 1965.

## Beer, the Best Health Food

By George Will, Washington Post Columnist, Published July 12, 2008

WASHINGTON — Perhaps like many sensible citizens, you read *Investor's Business Daily* for its sturdy common sense in defending free markets and other rational arrangements. If so, you too may have been startled recently by an astonishing statement on that newspaper's front page. It was in a report on the intention of the world's second-largest brewer, Belgium's InBev, to buy control of the third-largest, Anheuser-Busch, for \$46.3-billion. The story asserted: "The (alcoholic beverage) industry's continued growth, however slight, has been a surprise to those who figured that when the economy turned south, consumers would cut back on nonessential items like beer."

"Nonwhat"? Do not try to peddle that proposition in the bleachers or at the beaches in July. It is closer to the truth to say: No beer, no civilization.

The development of civilization depended on urbanization, which depended on beer. To understand why, consult Steven Johnson's marvelous 2006 book *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic — and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World*. It is a great scientific detective story about how a horrific cholera outbreak was traced to a particular neighborhood pump for drinking water. And Johnson begins a mind-opening excursion into a related topic this way:

"The search for unpolluted drinking water is as old as civilization itself. As soon as there were mass human settlements, waterborne diseases like dysentery became a crucial population bottleneck. For much of human history, the solution to this chronic public-health issue was not purifying the water supply. The solution was to drink alcohol."

Often the most pure fluid available was alcohol — in beer and, later, wine — which has antibacterial properties. Sure, alcohol has its hazards, but as Johnson observes, "Dying of cirrhosis of the liver in your forties was better than dying of dysentery in your twenties." Besides, alcohol, although it is a poison, and an addictive one, became, especially in beer, a driver of a species-strengthening selection process.

Johnson notes that historians interested in genetics believe that the roughly simultaneous emergence of urban living and the manufacturing of alcohol set the stage for a survival-of-the-fittest sorting-out among the people who abandoned the hunter-gatherer lifestyle and, literally and figuratively speaking, went to town.

To avoid dangerous water, people had to drink large quantities of, say, beer. But to digest that beer, individuals needed a genetic advantage that not everyone had — what Johnson describes as the body's ability to respond to the intake of alcohol by increasing the production of particular enzymes called alcohol dehydrogenases. This ability is controlled by certain genes on chromosome four in human DNA, genes not evenly distributed to everyone. Those who lacked this trait could not, as the saying is, "hold their liquor." So, many died early and childless, either of alcohol's toxicity or from waterborne diseases.

The gene pools of human settlements became progressively dominated by the survivors — by those genetically disposed to, well, drink beer. "Most of the world's population today," Johnson writes, "is made up of descendants of those early beer drinkers, and we have largely inherited their genetic tolerance for alcohol."

Johnson suggests that this explains why certain of the world's population groups, such as American Indians and Australian Aborigines, have had disproportionately high levels of alcoholism. These groups never endured the cruel culling of the genetically unfortunate that town dwellers endured. If so, the high alcoholism rates among American Indians are not, or at least not entirely, ascribable to the humiliations and deprivations of the reservation system. Rather, the explanation is that not enough of their ancestors lived in towns.

But that is a potential stew of racial or ethnic sensitivities that we need not stir in this correction of *Investor's Business Daily*. Suffice it to say that the good news is really good: Beer is a health food. And you do not need to buy it from those wan, unhealthy-looking people who seem to run all the health food stores.

So let there be no more loose talk about beer not being essential. Benjamin Franklin was, as usual, on to something when he said, "Beer is living proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." Or, less judgmentally, and for secular people who favor a wall of separation between church and tavern, beer is evidence that nature wants us to be.

## Smithsonian Going Digital

The Smithsonian Institution is working towards digitizing its collection to make science, history and cultural artifacts accessible online. Gaming experts and web gurus are collaborating with the curator on ways to present the artifacts in an appealing way.

Smithsonian officials don't know how long it will take or how much it will cost to digitize the full 137 million object collection. They will do it as money becomes available. A team will determine which artifacts are digitized first.

## 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](http://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.

### CGCAS Officers/Directors

|                      |                              |                                                                          |               |
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| President            | Bob Austin                   | P.O. Box 2818, Riverview, FL 33568                                       | (813)677-2280 |
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| Secretary            | Cindy Martin                 | 3412 Forest Bridge Cir. Brandon, FL 33511                                | (813)654-4828 |
| Treasurer            | Cheryl Shaughnessy           | 6100 62 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. N, Pinellas Park, 33781                       | (727)772-6758 |
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|                      | Marcie Connors               | 19327 Wind Dancer St., Lutz, FL 33558                                    | (813)920-4198 |
|                      | Karin Lovik                  | 1225 Jeffords St. Apt 225A, Clearwater, FL                               |               |
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|                      | Chris Hardy                  | 1668 Nantucket Court, Palm Harbor, FL 34683                              | (727)733-3636 |
| Membership           | Roger Block                  | 785 Capri Blvd., Treasure Island, FL 33706                               | (727)367-8381 |
| Newsletter           | David Burns                  | 15128 Springview St, Tampa, FL 33624                                     | (813)968-7910 |
|                      |                              | e-mail: <a href="mailto:daveburns@prodigy.net">daveburns@prodigy.net</a> |               |
| Editorial Assistants | Dorrine Burns and Bob Austin |                                                                          |               |

## 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 Roger Block, Membership Secretary, 785 Capri Blvd., Treasure Island, FL 33706

#### Dues

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Regular | \$20.00 |
| Student | 10.00   |
| Family  | 25.00   |
| Life    | 150.00  |

