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# CENTRAL GULF COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WWW.CGCAS.ORG

CENTRAL GULF COAST  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER, 2015



*38 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE*

EDITOR: BECKY O'SULLIVAN

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***THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015, 7:00 PM***

*AT*

WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY CENTER  
1800 WEEDON DR. NE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33702



***Barbara A. Purdy, PhD***  
***University of Florida***

### *The Weedon Island Canoe – A Success Story*

It slumbered for nearly a thousand years having endured battering tides, changing climate, and invasive vegetation. Discovered in 2001, recovered in 2011 and preserved, it is now on display at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center. Records exist for approximately four hundred prehistoric Florida canoes that survived in waterlogged environments, but this one is special. It is the longest and the only saltwater canoe recovered and preserved in Florida. We may never discover its passengers or its cargo, but because of the dedication and perseverance of all those who participated in keeping alive this “shard” of Florida’s past, we recognize that watercraft furnished the major means of transportation before trains, planes, and automobiles. It is a perfect example of “thinking globally, but acting locally,” and is an important addition to the story of Florida’s Maritime Heritage.

*These programs are free and open to the public. Please register at least 24 hours prior to this event by visiting <http://goo.gl/BmV3NB>. You can also call 727-453-6500 to register.*

## CITY OF ST PETERSBURG BUYS LAND NEAR ABERCROMBIE PARK TO PRESERVE MORE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Great news for those who love archaeological sites, the City of St Petersburg will be purchasing land adjacent to Abercrombie Park that contains part of an important archaeological site in order to better preserve it! The property is owned by friend of CGCAS Evelyn Kuttler, who had heard that the city was working on preserving archaeological sites in their parks and “called city parks officials and said she wanted to sell her property — 2.4 acres on the north side of the park with 215 feet of Boca Ciega Bay waterfront.” From the *Tampa Tribune*: “Parks and Recreation Director Mike Jefferis seized the chance and, on Thursday, about a year after Kuttler’s offer, the City Council voted unanimously to buy the property for \$1.7 million, which includes Kuttler’s 76-year-old home and some smaller out buildings. “We’re absolutely thrilled,” Jefferis said. “It’s very exciting.””



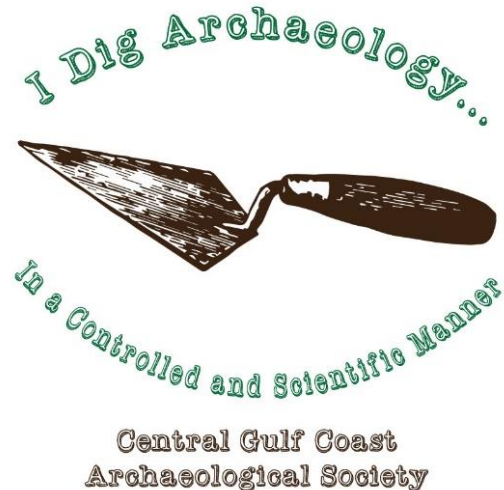
*A view of the water from Abercrombie Park.*

The Kuttler property and the shell mound that it contains is part of the larger Bayshore Homes archaeological site complex, which also includes Abercrombie Park. CGCAS conducted a small excavation at the mound in 1999 under the direction of Dr. Robert Austin. City of St Petersburg Parks Department plans on including interpretive panels and displays at the newly expanded park in order to educate the public about this important piece of the city’s prehistoric past. For more on this story check out the recent article in the Tampa Tribune at this link: <http://www.tbo.com/pinellas-county/st-pete->

[buys-24-acres-on-waterfront-to-expand-abercrombie-park-20151004/](http://www.tbo.com/pinellas-county/st-pete-buys-24-acres-on-waterfront-to-expand-abercrombie-park-20151004/)

## CGCAS T-SHIRTS ON THE WAY!

The vote is in on our CGCAS t-shirt contest and below is the winning design! Keep an eye out for information on how to order your own in the next newsletter or when you renew your membership for 2016!



## GRAND OPENING! WEEDON ISLAND CANOE EXHIBIT “NAVIGATING TAMPA BAY’S MARITIME PAST”



For over a thousand years, an ancient dugout canoe lay buried under mangrove peat near a shoreline on Old Tampa Bay at Weedon Island Preserve. Since its discovery in 2001, archaeologists have investigated, excavated, analyzed, and conserved this ancient treasure. The 1,100-year-old canoe will soon be on display at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center in an exciting new exhibit, "Navigating Tampa Bay's Maritime Past." The Public Grand Opening of Florida's longest, (40 feet), and only saltwater dugout canoe is Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 10 AM until 3 PM. Come talk to the experts from the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE) and learn about this amazing discovery and how it expands our knowledge of the prehistory of the Tampa Bay region.

Florida Public Archaeology Network West Central Region will provide additional archaeological activities and fun for the entire family as we celebrate the Grand Opening of "Navigating Tampa Bay's Maritime Past" and International Archaeology Day at Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33702.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



We need volunteers to help with the canoe exhibit opening event! If you would like to come out and help with the activities and info table we have planned, please email Becky at [rosulliv@usf.edu](mailto:rosulliv@usf.edu). The event runs from 10am – 3pm on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Even if you can only come for an hour or two your help would be appreciated!

### SAVE THE DATE: CGCAS CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Mark your calendar! December 6<sup>th</sup> we will be having our annual CGCAS Christmas Party

starting at Noon. More details to come in the next newsletter, but hope to see you all there!

### NEW RATES FOR DUES IN 2016

Starting on December 15<sup>th</sup> of 2015 our annual dues will be changing slightly. Student dues will now be \$12, individuals will be \$25, and families will be \$30. Dues haven't increased in about 15 years, and in order to keep bringing you great speakers, events, field trips, a website, and newsletter the Board found that a slight increase is necessary. It is only because of your support that we are able to have this speaker series, and your generous contributions are always appreciated.

### UPCOMING FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITY AT WEEDON ISLAND



University of Michigan PhD student Christina Sampson will be back this November for her final field season at the Weedon Island site and she is looking for volunteers to help out. Christina will be back in the area on November 21 and will be working at Weedon Island until about December 15. If you are interested in helping out with some fieldwork and getting your hands dirty please email Christina directly at [cper@umich.edu](mailto:cper@umich.edu).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**How Virtual Technologies are Changing Archaeology**  
*Wednesday, October 21, 2015 from 6 – 7pm*

What is the future of the past? This talk discusses how the interactive and immersive aspects of virtual reality, video games, and online worlds benefit the

public's engagement with and understanding of the past. Dr. Edward Gonzalez-Tennant will highlight how these emerging technologies are changing archaeology with case studies drawn from Florida and the Caribbean, including Rosewood, Kingsley Plantation, and an upcoming serious game exploring St Augustine's 450-year history. Dr. Gonzalez-Tennant earned his PhD in 2011 for his pioneering work on the application of virtual technologies to reconstructing the destroyed community of Rosewood in Levy County. He has conducted research on five continents and has published widely on the use of virtual technologies, computer mapping, and new media within archaeology.

WHERE: Selby Library  
1331 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sarasota

**Volunteer Archaeology Lab**  
*Friday, November 13, 2015 from 10am – Noon*

Ever wonder what archaeologists do with all that stuff they dig up at archaeological sites once the fieldwork is finished? At the FPAN Volunteer Lab, you can come find out for yourself! Learn all about how artifacts and other archaeological material get processed in the laboratory so that we can use them to learn about the past. You will get the chance to sort through, identify, and wash artifacts and other material from real archaeological sites! All ages are welcome to participate or observe, children 12 and under should be accompanied by an adult.

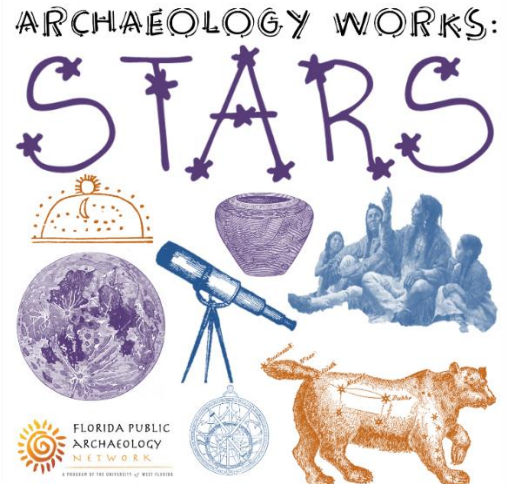
WHERE: Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center  
1800 Weedon Island Dr NE  
St Petersburg, FL 33702

For more information go to this link:  
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/volunteer-archaeology-lab-tickets-17618847447>

**Archaeology Works: Stars**  
*Saturday, November 14, 2015 from 10am – Noon*

Native Americans used the stars to tell stories, keep track of seasons and to get from place to place. Join us to learn more about the importance of the night sky in prehistoric times and the techniques archaeologists use to unlock their ancient mystery.

Recommended for all ages.



WHERE: Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center  
1800 Weedon Island Dr NE  
St Petersburg, FL 33702

**How Oceanographic Effects Influenced the Prehistoric Colonization of Islands: A Caribbean-Pacific Comparison**  
*Thursday, November 19, 2015 from 7 – 8pm*

For many island societies worldwide, the acquisition and exchange of prized resources was fundamental to developing and maintaining social, political, and economic relationships. The patchiness of resources such as stone, clay, tempering agents, shell, and animals often led to differential access, which then helped to fuel the rise of social complexity. This presentation by Scott M. Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. considers questions of resource acquisition and population movements as mediated by oceanographic and wind conditions. Comparing results from archaeological and other lines of evidence in the Caribbean and Pacific Islands highlights the role of seafaring capabilities as a critical factor in structuring colonization, population dispersals, and inter-island and island-mainland interaction.

WHERE: Weedon Island Center  
1800 Weedon Island Dr NE  
St Petersburg, FL 33702

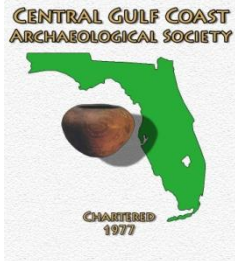
For more information go to this link:  
<http://goo.gl/TrOIw2>

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## 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 Cheryl Shaughnessy at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780

	Dues
Individual	\$24.00
Student	\$12.00
Family	\$30.00

**CENTRAL GULF COAST  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
4202 E FOWLER AVE, NEC 116  
TAMPA, FL 33620