

Central Gulf Coast *Archaeological Society*



Newsletter

| OCTOBER 2018 |

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

Upcoming Lecture:

Thursday, October 18th, 7pm
Revisiting Perico Island

Bob Austin, PhD

Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research



Archaeological investigation at the Perico Island North Midden (8MA6A) in 2016 and 2017 uncovered new data on this complex and intriguing site resulting in a reinterpretation of its role in Terminal Archaic/Transitional and Early Woodland developments on the Gulf coast. Excavation below the water table revealed thousands of postmolds and pit features (some of massive size), two cemeteries, and a preserved wooden enclosure. These new data, combined with the results of previous investigations, suggest Perico Island was a major locus of mortuary ritual and communal aggregation beginning about 1400 BC and continuing until at least AD 1000.

About the Speaker:

Bob Austin is an independent cultural resource consultant and co-founder of the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc. Bob received his MA in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida and his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Florida. He has worked for nearly 40 years in the cultural resource management field with surveys and excavations throughout Florida, the eastern and western US, the Caribbean, and Africa. He is past President of the Florida Anthropological Society and the Florida Archaeological Council, and is the recipient of awards for outstanding service from both organizations.

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>

Mark Your Calendar for our Upcoming Speakers!



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

CGCAS Holiday Party!



Mark your calendar- Saturday, December 8th at Noon we will be meeting for our annual Holiday Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange!

WHAT: CGCAS Annual Holiday Party
WHEN: Saturday, December 8th
WHERE: AWAIRE, 1500 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

BRING: Covered dish to share AND if you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a white elephant gift
REMINDER: Also a good time to remit your annual dues

CGCAS Fieldtrip to Historic Spanish Point



CGCAS is planning a fieldtrip to visit Historic Spanish Point in Osprey this coming January, we hope you can join us! We will get a guided tour of the various archaeological sites within the park, then go out to lunch at a nearby waterfront restaurant. Check back in future newsletters for more details and the date.

More on the Perico Island Site, Bradenton, Florida

By: Becky O'Sullivan

Situated just to our south in the city of Bradenton, the Perico Island site has long intrigued archaeologists working along Florida's Gulf Coast. In 1933 Dr. Marshall Newman conducted a major excavation at the site, focusing on the burial mound and cemetery area (see map below). Ripley Bullen followed in 1950, focusing more on the shell midden areas, and numerous other archaeologists have worked there up to the present day. These excavations, in addition to years of shell mining for commercial fill, and the construction of Manatee Avenue which bisects the site, have led to major impacts on the site – but much still remains preserved beneath the surface.

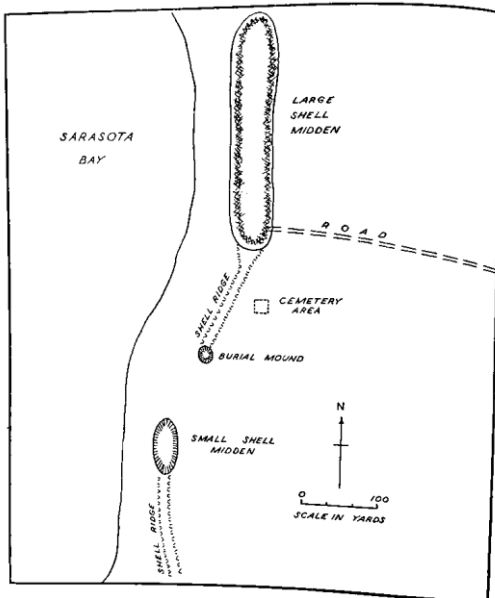


Interpretive signs at the portion of the Perico Island site within the Neal Preserve give insight into the archaeology that has gone on there.



The site's location just south of the mouth of the Manatee River, and close to the entrance to Tampa Bay, made it a fantastic spot for Native peoples to live, fish, and create a thriving community. The evidence of thousands of years of Native habitation is

preserved in layer upon layer of shell, hearths, discarded everyday items, and other midden material stretching along the western shore of Perico Island. People today enjoy the perks of coastal living in the area, including rich fisheries and beautiful water views, so it is easy to see why it was such a popular spot in the past. Want to check it out for yourself? You can still visit the Perico Island site today! Manatee County manages the southern portion of the Perico Island site as part of the Neal Preserve. The Neal Preserve is open to the public and includes paths and boardwalks, reconstructed burial mounds, interpretive signs about the archaeology of the site, and an observation tower along the water. Neal Preserve, 12301 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34209



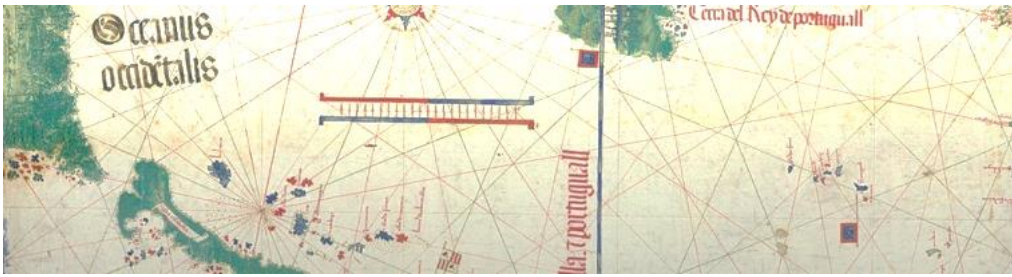
MAP 13.—The Perico Island site (Ma-6).



ABOVE: An artist's recreation of coastal living in pre-contact Florida.

FAR LEFT: A sketch of the Perico Island site by Matthew Stirling, from Gordon Willey's "Archaeology of the Florida Gulf Coast"

CENTER: Perico Island, as shown on a map of Manatee County from 1940. If you look closely on the west side of the island you can see where the map maker put the label "Indian Mounds".



Symposium: “Pre-Columbian & Early Colonial Florida” (Oct 27-28)

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. -- [The History Council](#) is hosting a [symposium](#) in St. Petersburg on **October 27-28** that will feature many experts on Florida as it existed before and during the time of the first contact by Europeans with Native Americans.

Topics will include Native Americans of Pre-Columbian Florida; the wildlife, flora, fauna, and coastal geography of the area during the Pre-Columbian and “first contact” periods, and early attempts at settlement and exploration of the Florida west coast.

The west coast of Florida, from Charlotte Harbor to Tampa Bay, are the sites of the first exploration and settlement attempts by Europeans in the New World. From Juan Ponce de León’s discovery of the Florida west coast in 1513, to his settlement attempt in 1521, to the Narváez Expedition in 1528, to the Hernando de Soto Expedition of 1540, little is known about where their landings in “La Florida” occurred, and little is known of the Native Americans who were here at the time. The symposium will include presentations and introduce new research, to help us to understand more about the people who came here, the people who lived here at the time, and where the explorer’s excursions took them.

WHEN: Saturday, October 27 and Sunday, October 28
WHERE: St. Petersburg Yacht Club, with visits to: The Anderson/Narváez Site (Jungle Prada Archaeological Site), and The James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art (opened May 2018); St. Petersburg Hilton has discounted rooms for symposium registrants.

WHO: Hosted by [The History Council](#); Open to public ([limited tickets available](#)) Speakers include Sterling Professor Rolena Adorno of Yale University; Professor Emeritus Jerald Milanich of the University of Florida; Chair and Professor J. Michael Francis of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg; Professor Emeritus Barbara Purdy of the University of Florida; Professor Emeritus Martin Favata of the University of Tampa; Professor Ping Wang of the University of South Florida; and Professor Emeritus Al Hine of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Tickets and further information are available at [HistoryCouncil.org](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS!



Volunteer

Archaeology Lab

Friday, Oct 26, 10 – Noon

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



People and Plants Florida Ethnobotany

Sat., Oct 27, 10:30-11:30

Free with Gardens

Admission

Sunken Gardens

1825 4th St N

St Petersburg

Hurricane Michael Uncovers Shipwreck near Carrabelle

By: Becky O'Sullivan

The devastation left behind by Hurricane Michael has been heartbreaking to see, and we are all keeping the communities and people affected by this deadly storm in our thoughts. As folks start to rebuild and repair the damage to their homes and lives focus will eventually turn to the natural and cultural resources impacted by Michael. Hurricanes are particularly destructive to coastal archaeological sites, often eroding coastal Native American sites and uncovering shipwrecks and ancient canoes (as we have seen with the past few storms to hit Florida).

Near the city of Carrabelle, the waves and storm surge brought by Hurricane Michael seem to have uncovered a historic shipwreck that was previously protected by sand. The Carrabelle Boat Club posted photos of the wreck on their facebook page just after the storm. It will be some time until archaeologists are able to get out to assess the site, but once roads are cleared and non-emergency personnel are allowed into the area archaeologists working for FEMA and the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research will be able to check on sites that have been impacted throughout the region.



A picture of the shipwreck uncovered near Carrabelle, image from the Carrabelle Boat Club Facebook page.



An aerial view of the wreck, image from the Carrabelle Boat Club Facebook page.

International Archaeology Day 2018 is Almost Here!



International Archaeology Day is held each year on the third Saturday of October.

International Archaeology Day is a celebration of archaeology and the thrill of discovery. Every October the AIA and archaeological organizations across the United States, Canada, and abroad present archaeological programs and activities for people of all ages and interests. Whether it is a family-friendly archaeology fair, a guided tour of a local archaeological site, a simulated dig, a lecture or a classroom visit from an archaeologist, the interactive, hands-on International Archaeology Day programs provide the chance to indulge your inner Indiana Jones. Check out the International Archaeology Day website at the link below for Trivia Games, Archaeology Fun Facts, and information on archaeology events near you!

<https://www.archaeological.org/archaeologyday>

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/

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