
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

www.cgcas.org



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2008



Editor: David Burns

November Meeting

Thursday November 20th

at

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

7 – 8 PM.

Lakeside Ranch: A Glimpse at Early Settlement along Lake Okeechobee



James P. Pepe

This month's presentation features James P. Pepe, Project Archaeologist with Janus Research. For several years, Janus Research has been conducting archaeological research associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP). This presentation will focus on ongoing work at Lakeside Ranch, a CERP subcomponent located in Martin County along the eastern edge of Lake Okeechobee. Analysis conducted to date indicates use of this area dating to the late Archaic period, perhaps as early as 4,000 years ago. Lakeside Ranch provides an interesting glimpse into the early history of Lake Okeechobee and aboriginal adaptation to central southern Florida. 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.

Christmas Party 2008

The CGCAS Christmas Party will be held at the home of Tom and Marcie Connors on Sunday December 14th, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 p.m. A brief board meeting will take place at 12:00 noon. Again this year, it will be a Dog Party. Bring an unwanted item from home. If we wrap or bag the item, we can make this like a Chinese gift exchange.

The party will be potluck, and CGCAS will supply the drinks/spirits.

The Connors' live at 19327 Wind Dancer St. in Lutz. If you get lost or need directions, their phone number is (813)920-4198 or check with them at tjconnors@verizon.net.

New Logo Chosen

After over thirty years the CGCAS board has chosen a new, updated logo. We would like to thank Louis Claudio for designing and making the many changes requested of him. Thanks Lou.

New Membership Secretary

Roger Block has resigned his position as Membership Secretary as part of his "retirement simplification" program and to devote more time to teaching. Thanks Roger for all your hard work. Karin Lovik has agreed to take on the job. Thanks Karin! Roger & Karin are coordinating the transfer of membership files and new contact information for sending Karin your dues will be on the CGCAS web site soon.

Alliance for Weedon Island

Archaeological Research and Education

CGCAS members **Dave Burns, Sheila Stewart, Bob Austin, Jeff Moates, Terry Powell, Cindy Martin, and Loren Blakely** are serving as Board members of the newly formed Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, otherwise known as AWIARE. The goal is to develop an archaeological research facility at the Weedon Island Preserve in St. Petersburg. CGCAS hopes to be able to have a permanent home at the Preserve once the facility is open. Watch the newsletter for more developments as AWIARE evolves.

Southeastern Archaeological Conference

65th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) is being held from November 12-15th in Charlotte, N.C. The following members and friends of CGCAS will be presenting papers at this conference:

Drs. Bob Austin and Jeff M. Mitchem, "Site Formation and Chronology at Bayshore Homes: A Late Weeden Island Mound Complex on the Gulf Coast of Florida".

Phyllis Kolianos and Donna Ruhl, "Shoreline Canoe Site-8Pi11624, Florida's First Prehistoric Gulf Coast Dugout Canoe".

Dr. Nancy White, "Looking for Clarence, or, How We Find C.B. Moore's Lost Mounds".

Dr. Jeff Mitchem, "Mississippian Copper Artifacts from Arkansas".

Jeff Moates, "Reaching Out to Other Publics: Assisting Local Government in the Tampa Bay Region".

Terry Powell will have a vendor's table at SEAC this year selling his reproductions of prehistoric shell, wood, and stone technology.

October Meeting Presentation

On Thursday October 16th, Dr. Bill Keegan and his daughter Lindsey Keegan presented an interesting talk on shell net

weights from Florida and Puerto Rico entitled "Shell Net Weights from Key Marco & Puerto Rico: New Perspectives on Aboriginal Fishing Technology". Their talk focused on the use of shell as manufactured net weights from two important sites, and discussed the implications for a more comprehensive understanding of native fishing practices.

See the article below related to their research published in ScienceDaily.

Small Islands Given Short Shrift In Assembling Archaeological Record

ScienceDaily (Oct. 30, 2008) — Small islands dwarf large ones in archaeological importance, says a University of Florida researcher, who found that people who settled the Caribbean before Christopher Columbus preferred more minute pieces of land because they relied heavily on the sea.

"We've written history based on the bigger islands," said Bill Keegan, a University of Florida archaeologist whose study is published online in the journal *Human Ecology*. "Yet not only are we now seeing people earlier on smaller islands, but we're seeing them move into territories where we didn't expect them to at the time that they arrived."

Early Ceramic Age settlements have been found in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Montserrat, for example, but are absent from all of the larger islands in the Lesser Antilles, Keegan said. And all of the small islands along the windward east coast of St. Lucia have substantial ceramic artifacts — evidence of settlement — despite being less than one kilometer, or .62 mile, long, said Keegan, who is curator of Caribbean archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History on the UF campus.

It was thought that people preferred larger islands because the land mass of bigger islands could support a more diverse range of habitats and greater numbers of animal species for humans to subsist on, Keegan said. In addition, the focus of long-term evolutionary patterns has favored large islands, he said.

But small islands had coastlines rich with fish, and the absence of dense woodlands made them more suited to farming and hunting small prey such as iguanas, tortoises and hutias, a cat-sized rodent, he said.

"In the short term, small islands often are superior to larger islands, and for a variety of reasons, they were actually people's first choice," Keegan said. "They had better wind flow, fewer mosquitoes and more plentiful marine resources. With sufficient water and a relatively small amount of land to grow certain kinds of crops, they had everything one would need."

Because prehistoric people were drawn to these small islands, they may tell scientists more than settlements on larger islands about early patterns of life, Keegan said. To date, most archaeological excavations have taken place on bigger islands in such countries as Cuba, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, he said.

Much of Keegan's research focused on Grand Turk, Middle Caicos and very small cays in the Turks and Caicos Islands, along with Carriacou in the Grenadine Islands, he said.

Pottery remains he found that were analyzed at the Florida Museum of Natural History's ceramic technology lab shows that humans often left large islands for small ones, probably initially to take advantage of abundant marine resources along the coastline, he said.

Ceramic pottery sherds recovered from the smaller Turks and Caicos islands, for example, were actually found to have come from Haiti, he said. "Traveling to the Turks and Caicos gave these people an opportunity to get sources of food that weren't locally available to them," he added.

In another case, pottery remains were found on an extremely tiny island in the Turks and Caicos that had little soil and was accessible only by a sand spit, Keegan said.

"The island looks just like a rock," he said. "To think that anyone would have any reason to be out there is just beyond believability. But the island is named Pelican Cay, so people may have gone there to capture sea birds and their eggs."

People were drawn by the large varieties of fish, tortoises, iguanas and sea turtles that were in much greater supply on Grand Turk than the island of Hispaniola at the time, Keegan said. Remains from loggerhead turtles as big as 1,000 pounds were excavated from Grand Turk, although sea turtle sizes eventually declined to 60 pounds with overexploitation, he said.

"The high rates of return from capturing these animals far outweighed the costs of getting to Grand Turk," he said. "Such human migration patterns made good economic sense."

It was probably easier to sail to other islands than traverse from one end of an island to the other through the overgrown vegetation of tropical woodlands, he said.

"Most island archaeologists today, including those in the Caribbean, recognize that the sea was their ancient highway," he said.

And the smaller the island, the better. "Based on our work, it is clear that marine resources on smaller islands in the Caribbean were abundant, heavily exploited and even sought after by the native peoples," Keegan said. "You could say that 'small is beautiful' or 'size doesn't matter.'"

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 on a Thursday of the listed month. The lectures begin at 7 pm are free and open to the public. Further information will be presented in future newsletters regarding each month's presentation.

November 20, 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. – True or False? The View from a site in Marion County, 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, PhD. – 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

Volunteer Opportunity

The Tampa Bay History Center is looking for volunteers for the new Center, to open in January 2009.

Volunteer Orientation is Tuesday, November 18, 2008, 6:00-7:30 p.m., at University Club of Tampa, Harbour Room, Verizon Building, 38th Floor, One Tampa City Center, Tampa, FL 33602.

Reservations are required. To RSVP please contact Ellen Robinson, Volunteer Coordinator, at (813) 831-2635 ext. 229 or historycentervolunteers@gmail.com.

New Painting by Dean Quigley



Artist Dean Quigley has recently unveiled his latest painting. It depicts Pensacola Bay in 1782 on the morning the French and Spanish Warships arrive to attack the British at the end of the Revolutionary War. Spanish and French commanders meet on board the San Gabriel to discuss the plan of attack!!

Trail Annual Meeting 2008

Everyone interested in promoting visitation to and protection of both ancient and contemporary Native American heritage sites in Florida is cordially welcomed to the annual meeting of the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage on Friday, Nov. 21 at the Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) on the campus of the South Florida Community College, Avon Park.

Schedule

9-10:00 am Tour of Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC)

10-10:30 am Coffee and Introductions

10:30-noon Sequential Grant-writing Workshops--Marty Ardren: "Before Your Very Eyes: the Safety Harbor Museum Writes a Florida Humanities Council (FHC) Mini Grant" and Sherry Svekis: "What Major Grants FHC Likes to Fund, Guidelines on Writing Your Objectives and How to Build a Budget"

Noon-12:45 Modestly-priced lunch on site--Call Anne Reynolds 863-465-3637 by Nov. 14 to make a reservation.

12:45-1:30 pm Trail Annual Meeting

Trail Treasurer's Report; Status of Trail Grant Projects; New Trail Brochure; 2009 Speaker Series

Election of 2008-09 Trail Board from the following nominees; Tommy Abood, Erik Anderson, Marty Ardren, Roger Block, Ron Fekete, Anne Reynolds, Terry Simpson, Brenda Swann, Hermann Trappman and nominees from the floor.

1:30-3 pm Marketing Workshop--Brenda Swann and Representatives from Trail Sites: "Developing a General Marketing Brochure to Increase Visitation to Your Site or Heritage Interpretation Business"

3 pm Tour of MOFAC

FAS Membership

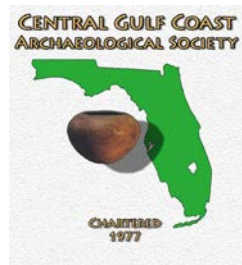
The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources and community education. Membership is made up of both professional and avocational archaeologists. Benefits of membership include the journal *The Florida Anthropologist*, 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 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

President	Bob Austin	P.O. Box 2818, Riverview, FL 33568	(813)677-2280
Vice Pres	Shanna Drwiega	917 W. Woodland Ave, Tampa, FL 33603	(813)383-9182
Secretary	Cindy Martin	3412 Forest Bridge Cir. Brandon, FL 33511	(813)654-4828
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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 Karin Lovik 1225 Jeffords St., Apt 225A, Clearwater, FL.

Dues

Regular	\$20.00
Student	10.00
Family	25.00
Life	150.00

