

Central Gulf Coast *Archaeological Society*



Newsletter

| November 2018 |

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

Upcoming Lecture:

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.

Dr. Anna Dixon is Instructor of Anthropology at USFSP. She received her MA at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and PhD at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She was formerly Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Eckerd College and Archaeological Laboratory Director for Panamerican Consultants in Tampa. She is a medical anthropologist and ethnobotanist who has conducted fieldwork in Micronesia, Polynesia and North America.

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>

Follow New Archaeological Research around Tampa Bay on Facebook



HEAT (Historical Ecology of Ancient Tampa Bay) is an NSF funded study focusing on the manner in which common property regimes shift over time in relation to changes in environmental and socio-political contexts.

Directed by Drs. Tom Pluckhahn (our September speaker who spoke about his research at the Crystal River archaeological site), University of South Florida, and Victor Thompson, University of Georgia, along with a team of graduate students and a post-doctoral scholar, the project studies changes in sea tenure—the collectively-managed use rights to fisheries—among the native societies of the Tampa Bay estuary during the late Holocene, from around AD 250 to 1650.

Spanish accounts from the end of this time range describe a fractured socio-political landscape comprised of warring, territorially-based chiefdoms, while archaeological evidence from the earlier range of the time frame suggests a more dispersed population with less social stratification and little inter-group conflict. Our research tests the hypothesis that this transformation was the result of changes in sea tenure occurring in conjunction with shifts in the natural and social environments, through a program of archaeological and paleoecological testing.

The resulting interdisciplinary dataset will contribute to a better understanding of how common property resource management systems may be remade over time and, in doing so, offer insights potentially useful for predicting changes in contemporary public policies regulating common-property resources as diverse as air, water, gene pools, and the internet.

Check out what they find at this link starting in the new year: <https://www.facebook.com/HEAT-Historical-Ecology-of-Ancient-Tampa-Bay-477432516101970/>

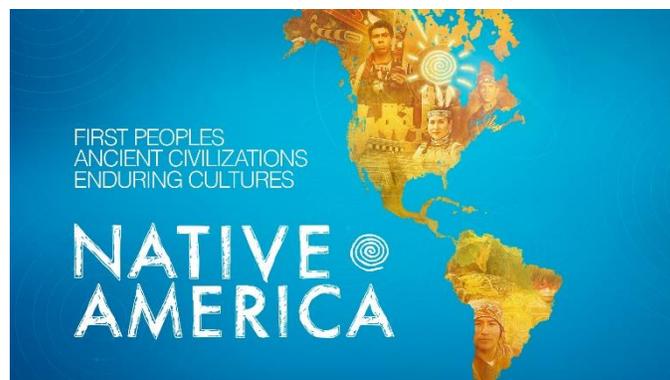
CGCAS Holiday Party!



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

“Native America” Series on your Local PBS Stations



Just a reminder about this amazing new show on PBS, *Native America*. You can watch featured videos and find out more information at the link below. The next episode airs on November 13th at 9pm. Definitely worth a watch! <http://www.pbs.org/native-america/home/>

This Might be the Oldest Tattoo Kit in the World

BY MEGAN GANNON

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/540261/may-be-oldest-tattoo-kit-world>

Tattooing is an ancient art, but it has left only ephemeral traces in the archaeological record. Examples of mummies with ink-decorated skin do exist—such as Ötzi the Iceman and the Siberian Ice Maiden—but they're rare. And archaeologists are only just beginning to distinguish tattoo needles from other tools that were used for tasks like working leather or weaving baskets. Despite those challenges, a pair of researchers thinks they've identified what could be the world's oldest tattooing toolkit: a set of pointy, ink-stained needles that were carved out of wild turkey bones and then buried in a Native American grave at least 3600 years ago.

The burial was found west of Nashville, Tennessee, at a riverside campsite called the Fernvale site, which had been used by prehistoric hunter-gatherers for centuries. The settlement was excavated to make way for a bridge in 1985, but archaeologists at the time did not fully analyze the findings. The set of bone needles, pigment-filled half-shells, and stone tools were collectively labeled a toolkit and put into storage, where they spent the next three decades. "It was one of these situations where it went into a collection and nothing was done with it," says Aaron Deter-Wolf, an archaeologist with the Tennessee Division of Archaeology and an expert in ancient tattoos.



Wild turkey bones dated to 3,600 years ago and thought to be used for tattooing. Image Credit: Aaron Deter-Wolf

Deter-Wolf teamed up with Tanya Peres, a zooarchaeologist at Florida State University, to take a fresh look at the set of artifacts. They were initially interested in the toolkit because it resembled a medicine bundle—a collection of artifacts that was bound together to act like a portable shrine in more recent Native American cultures. But after examining the objects, the researchers thought they might be dealing with a tattoo kit. "By the arrival of the Europeans, virtually every Native American group in the Great Plains and the Eastern Woodlands practiced tattooing," Deter-Wolf tells Mental Floss. "If it's something that widespread and that important, we suspect that it is very deeply rooted in Native American history."

Their theory got a boost from another study published last year, in which Christian Gates St-Pierre, an archaeologist at the University of Montreal, tattooed pig skin with bone tools to test the wear-and-tear patterns that prehistoric tattoo needles should exhibit. He found that when it was used for tattooing, a bone needle would develop a bright polish—but only on the first 3 millimeters of the tip.



Timucuan Man of Florida, John White Painting, 1585 (after LeMoyne, 1564)

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21ST ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS CELEBRATION



21st Annual American Indian Arts Celebration

Every year in early November, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum hosts the American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) on the Museum grounds in the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. Enjoy special presentations, wildlife shows, and traditional and contemporary arts and crafts, dance and music of the Seminole, Southeastern and other Indian Tribes from across the country. Admission to the festival includes free parking and entrance to our award winning museum.

The sensational backdrop for this event is the scenic Florida Everglades, just about an hour from Broward, Dade, Collier and Hendry counties. The rich blue skies, verdant fields, and miles of sawgrass and hammocks provide the ultimate setting for this amazing celebration.

Can't make it to the event? Check out the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum facebook page for a series of great videos on different types of Seminole art including: beadwork, basketry, and patchwork.

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/ahtahtiki/videos>

American Indian Arts Celebration

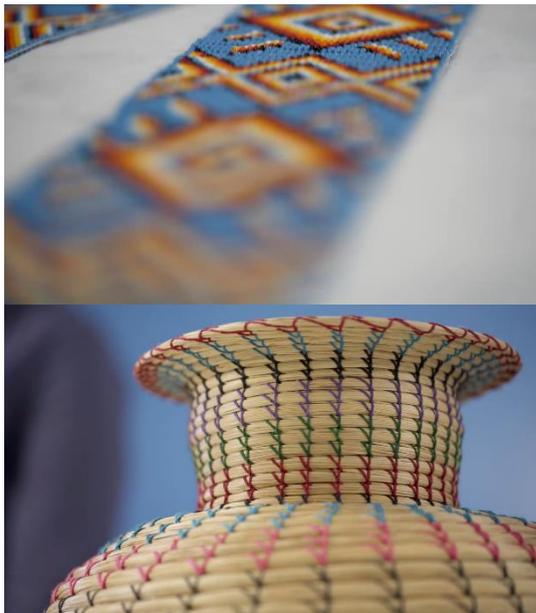
WHEN: November 2 & 3

WHERE:

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum
34725 W Boundary Rd, Clewiston

For more information go to:

www.seminole-store.com



UPCOMING EVENTS!



Walk Tampa: The Ybor City Story

Saturday, November 10th
from 10 – 11:30am

The Cuban Club, 2010 N
Avenida Republica De
Cuba, Tampa, FL 33605



The Manasota Key Offshore Site

Wednesday, November 28th
from 3-4pm

Florida Maritime Museum,
4415 119th Street West,
Cortez, FL

Oldest Tattoo Kit

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Deter-Wolf recently took those experiments one step further. He re-created one of Ötzi's tattoos on his own skin, using a bone tool and black ink to make 1500 individual punctures on his left wrist—and a permanent tattoo.

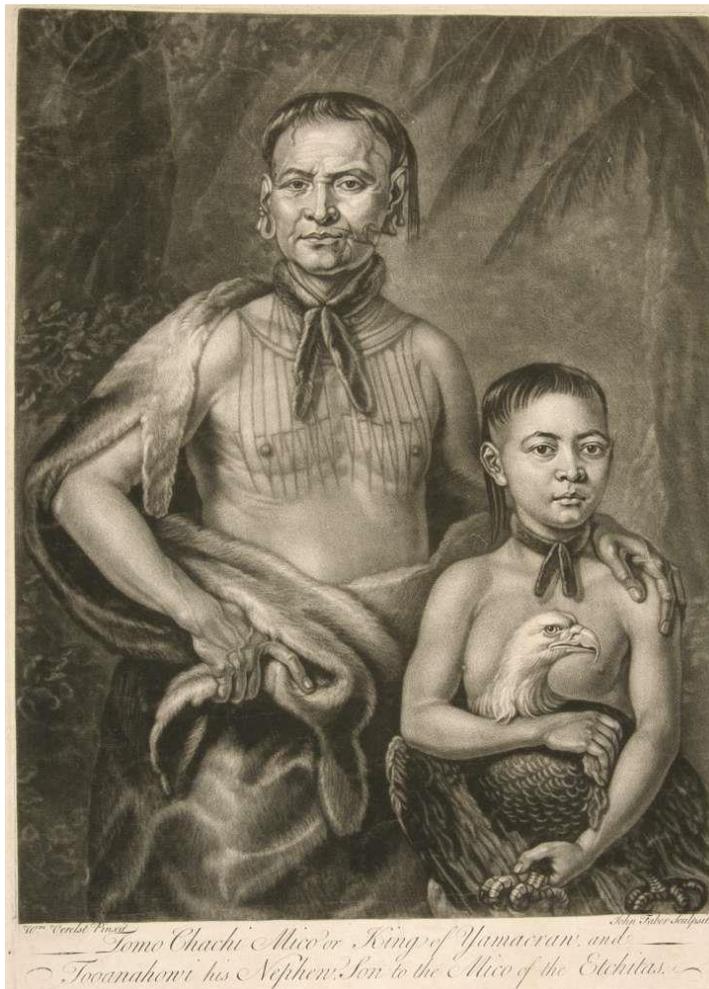
Deter-Wolf and Peres said that two of the needles in the kit had the same wear-and-tear signatures that Gates found in his experiments. "At this point there's not another activity that we know of that would create that same pattern on bone tools," Deter-Wolf says. They also found traces of red and black pigment on the tips of the tools. (They're awaiting the final results of an analysis to figure out the chemical makeup of this paint.) They presented their preliminary findings this week at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Washington, D.C.



Replicating ancient tattoo techniques. Image Credit: Aaron Deter-Wolf

The toolkit is thought to be at least 3600 years old and could be even more ancient: Initial results from a radiocarbon study of shells found at the same site suggest an age of 5200 years. Either way, the tools predate a group of 3000-year-old tattooing tools made from volcanic glass that were identified in 2016 at an archaeological site on an island in the South Pacific.

While scholars know a lot about more recent Native American tattooing practices because of historical accounts and ethnographic studies after European contact, prehistoric tattooing remains



1739 messotine by John Faber the Younger of Tomo Chachi Mico or King of Yamacraw, and his nephew Tooanahowi. Image Credit: Yale University Art Gallery.

more mysterious. For now it's impossible to know what kind of tattoos the Fernvale tools would have been used to create, or what meaning tattooing had for the people who lived along this Tennessee river valley during this era, called the Archaic period in North America.

"I think there has to be a whole lot more work done on Archaic lifeways in general before we can even start to parse the deeper meaning of tattooing in this period," Peres says. "We're still arguing about what they were eating and what kind of houses they living in, which are more durable things in the archaeological record." Deter-Wolf expects archaeologists will identify more tattoo kits hiding in collections: "What I suspect is that once we start looking at more of these things, we're going to find that tattooing is an incredibly widespread activity."

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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