
Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2005



Editor: David Burns

*****December Meeting*****



May you all have a great holiday season and a prosperous New Year

Christmas Party

Saturday, December 17, 2005

*At the Home of Erik and Doris Anderson
1620 Park St., St. Petersburg
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

The CGCAS Christmas Party will be held at the home of Erik and Doris on Saturday December 17th from 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 p.m. A brief board meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. 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. This promises to be a fun time and hope you can make it.

The Anderson's live at 1620 Park Street in St. Petersburg. Their house is on the right just past Saffron's. You can park at the back lot of Saffron's and enter through the back gate.

Archaeology Month 2006

The CGCAS annual Florida Archaeology Month event will be held Saturday March 18, 2006 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Indian Village. This year we will be privileged to have Dr. Albert Goodyear attend and give a presentation at 1:00 PM updating his findings at the Allendale/Topper site in South Carolina. His work and reports coming from that site are gaining much attention and changing the thinking on the peopling of America.

The Trail of Lost Tribes New President

Roger Block been elected as the new president for the Trail Of Lost Tribes (TOLT) for the coming year. Roger was their past Treasurer and has actively participated in TOLT's planning of programs for several years. Congratulations on your new position.

Clovis Conference Report

Paul Lien attended this conference in Columbia, South Carolina and prepared this report for us and supplied the photos used. He will also be giving a presentation at the Christmas party.

Participating the four day conference "Clovis in the Southeast" October 26-29, 2005 in Columbia, South Carolina, was even more extraordinary than what the attendees anticipated. The conference was a coming together of many interdisciplinary studies focused on the peopling of America. Collaboration with both the scientific community and the public added great depth to the gathering. All attendees benefited from displays provided by both professional and private artifact collectors.

The largest amount of Clovis-related points, that have been recovered by private and professionals, have overwhelmingly come from the Southeast. As many as 16,000 pieces have been found and recorded from this period. Famous sites such as the Gault Site in Texas, the Thunderbird in Virginia, and the Vail Site in Offord County, Maine were represented. Florida was well represented with displays and presenters. Paleoenterprises (Jim Tatum and Carlos Tatum) and Brian Everson displayed recovered paleo collections from Florida.

Andy Hemmings brought a Florida State exhibit of the Sloth Hole artifacts, that among others, displayed the ivory recovered foreshaft implements collected by Richard Oms in the Aucilla River in the '50's and '60's. Another inspiring display was of recovered paleo artifacts from the Aucilla River/Page Ladson site.

A wide variety of topics were covered at the conference, which mostly related to how the peopling of North America occurred. The most feasible conclusion of the investigation of the peopling of North America was that it was a process rather than an event. Studying the evidence of the environment is a key to the current theory that Early Americans used possible passages from a land bridge or from migration along the coastal reaches passing along the ice flow and the ice sheets in deeper water.

The environment during the maximum glaciation would have made an ice-free corridor very unfriendly. At that time, the coldest part of the world would have been in the same region they would have had to cross. As later pointed out in this article, this time frame may not have been correct for all of the peopling of North America.

During the banquet, Dennis Stanford, from the Smithsonian Foundation, presented the keynote address "Constructing the Solutrian Connection." Dr. Stanford presented the hypothesis on a possible migration from the European continent, based on the technology of the Solutrian culture. The overshot technology of flint napping measures the technology used in North America on some of the final points.

A supposition was made that boats, with ample food supplies, came from the coastal and glacial areas. Some now-extinct food supplies would have been on the leading edge of the pack ice. These included the now-extinct flocks of birds, the ever-present seals and other sea animals. The evidence of this possible passage is now inundated under coastal waters.

The last paper given on Saturday was presented as a compilation of all the similar tools and artifacts between North America and Siberia, arguing once again for a Bering Sea passage. All the information presented left me with the thought that we have learned a great deal but still don't have a concrete answer to the peopling of North America.

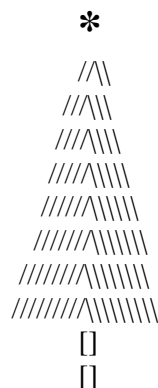
The final day was a field trip to the Allendale or Topper Site. This site is located in southern South Carolina, along the Savannah River. The site has produced Clovis points and other cultural items at its upper limits. Also found has been intriguing lower layers of early man, evidence that could push man further back than the Clovis era, possibly 40,000 years or more. An insightful presentation was given by Dr. Al Goodyear and crew. All in all, the conference was full of educational insights and great camaraderie.

In Print

The current issue of *American Archaeology* contains a very pertinent article about the Topper site in South Carolina. It discusses the history of the site and the work being done there by Dr. Albert Goodyear. Dr. Goodyear has found evidence that the site may pre-date the Clovis and be possibly as old as 50,000 years. Future excavation and analysis of artifacts recovered may help answer the question of when people first arrived in America.

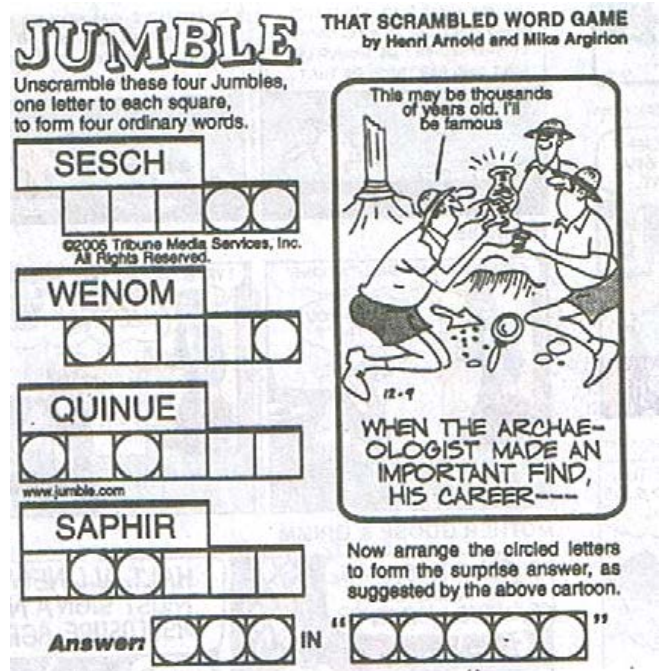
The same issue has a portrait of Hester Davis. Hester has spent much of her career in Arkansas but her influence has reached much further. She was instrumental in getting some of archaeology's important legislation passed in the 60's and 70's. These include the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966 and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act in 1977. Hester is known for getting things done and usually she is content to work behind the scenes. Her many contributions to archaeology truly make her, as the magazine said, a National Treasure.

Happy Holidays from the officers and directors of CGCAS



Roger and Jean Block, Sergio Giraldi, Dr. John Arthur, Cindy Martin, Mark Winterbottom, Eloise Hardman, Chris Hardy, John Whitaker, and Shanna Drweiga

On the Lighter Side



This puzzle appeared in the 12/9 St. Petersburg Times. By unscrambling the four words above and then arrange the circled letters in each to solve the puzzle. The answer appears below.

King Tut Exhibit

This exhibit features 50 major artifacts from Tutankhamen's tomb including his royal diadem and more than 70 artifacts from other royal graves from the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. This exhibit will only be available in four cities in the United States.

You will be able to visit it in Fort Lauderdale from December 15, 2005 until April 23, 2006. Further information about the exhibit can be found online at <http://kingtut.org/venues.html/>.

Ticket cost is \$25 for adults or \$22.50 for seniors (65+). Also, there is an audio accompaniment for \$7 that must be ordered with the tickets, as the audio headsets will not be available for rental separately. Tickets may be ordered by calling 877-787-7711.

Answer to JUMBLE
 Words: chess, women, unique, parish
 Answer: WAS in "RUINS"

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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. Visit our web site at www.cgcas.org.

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 begins in the month of dues receipt. Contact Membership Secretary, CGCAS, P.O. Box 9507, Treasure Island, FL 33740.

Dues	
Regular	\$15.00
Student	10.00
Family	20.00
Life	150.00



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