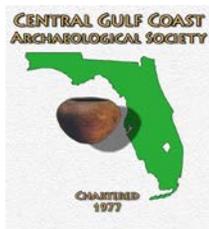

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

www.cgcas.org



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2010



Editor: David Burns

December Meeting

Thursday December 16th

at

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

7 – 8 PM.

"A Barren Unsettled Wilderness" to "A Great Place of Trade and Importance": Exploring 19th Century Frontier Florida at the Pine Level Site, DeSoto County, Florida.



Jana J. Futch, Florida Public Archaeology Network and Graduate Program, University of South Florida

This presentation on the Pine Level site will explore the lives of early settlers, and how their community evolved from one-building outpost, to a bustling frontier town, before becoming only a memory on a map.

Pre-register for this event by visiting www.pinellascountyextension.org, clicking the "Online Registration" button, and then on the "Weedon Island" tab. You may also call 727-453-6500.

This Month's Speaker

Jana Futch is an Anthropology graduate student at the University of South Florida. She received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Washington in 2005. Interested in all types of archaeology, Ms. Futch is currently writing her Master's thesis on the history and archaeology of the 19th century site of Pine Level, in DeSoto County, Florida. She is employed by the Florida Public Archaeology Network Central Region, a position that allows her to pursue her interest in public archaeology by working directly with individuals and communities on a wide range of projects.

Pine Level Background

In 1866 the seat of Manatee County was moved to Pine Level, a newly-formed town in the wilderness of South Florida. Perhaps hampered by its connection to Reconstruction politicians, Pine Level was slow to grow, though by the 1880s it was home to several stores, boardinghouses, churches, and government buildings. In 1887, Pine Level became DeSoto County's first seat. However, when it lost county seat status to Arcadia only 18 months later, Pine Level rapidly declined in population and importance, and eventually died out. Recent investigations of the Pine Level site were carried out as a public archaeology project, involving the DeSoto County Historical Society, University of South Florida, and the Florida Public Archaeology Network West Central Region.

2010-2011 Lecture Series

The CGCAS Lecture Series for 2011 will present another excellent group of speakers at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. The lectures are held the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. They are free and open to the public.

This year more than ever it is important to pre-register so that the number of attendees is accurately recorded by the County!! You can also do so by calling the Center at 727-453-6500 or by visiting www.pinellascountyextension.org, navigating to "Online Class Registration", and choosing "Weedon Island."

2011 programs and speakers will include:

● **Thursday, January 20, 2011, 7-8 PM**

Geology of Tampa Bay

Al Hines, Ph.D., U.S. Geological Survey

● **Thursday, February 17, 2011, 7-8 PM**

Mexico's Forgotten Coast: Ancient Canoe Trade in the "Mar del Sur"

Stacey Barber, Ph.D., University of Central Florida

● **Thursday, March 17, 2011, 7-8 PM**

Plant Usage by Prehistoric Floridians

Robin Brown, Prehistoric Technologist and Author

● **Thursday, April 21, 2011, 7-8 PM**

Tatsuya Murakami, Ph.D. University of South Florida

Power Dynamics and urban Construction at Teotihuacan (AD150-650) Mexico

CGCAS Christmas Party

On Saturday December 18th CGCAS will hold its Christmas Part at the home of Doris Dix (Dee Dee), 1406 86th Ave. North St. Pete 33702 at 1:00 pm. Bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift to swap. **This is also an excellent time to pay your dues for 2011.** Please RSVP to Dee Dee at

aumtara@tampabay.rr.com or call her at (727-577-9168). Her address is

To get to her home from Martin Luther Street North (9th St.), go west on 87th Ave. North. When 87th ends take an immediate left and then an immediate right. This is now 86th Ave. North. Go one long block and her home is the second house on the left of the next block. Look for a red brick home with a bay window and a wrap around driveway.

Save the Date

I know it is hard to be thinking about a picnic at this time of the year, but the date of June 18, 2011 has been reserved for our annual picnic. We will again hold it at Lake Seminole Park, the site of last year's outing. So please mark your calendar and reserve this date so that you can join us there.

Lectures and Programs on DVD

Over the past several years Tom and Marcie Connors have produced DVDs of the CGCAS lectures. Other past programs, events, and donated DVDs are also available. Chris Hardy has headed this project and developed an index and sign-out sheet for these. They are available for viewing at the Weedon Island Center. Contact Chris at kasotagirl@yahoo.com for further information. It normally takes about a month for the most recent lectures to be edited and ready for checkout. Thanks to Tom and Marcie's professional experience and time they put into this.

Dues are Due!

Membership in the CGCAS runs from January 1 to January 1. We hope you will continue to participate in field and lab work and public events; and the monthly meetings that include great lectures on Florida archaeology and history. To join now for the 2011 year, or to renew your membership go to www.cgcas.org. Follow the instructions to renew with PayPal or mail your membership dues to our post office box address: Membership Chair, P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780-1563

Dugout Canoe Found in Tallahassee

A canoe believed to be 500 to 800 years old was recently recovered from a lake bed south of Tallahassee. The canoe was 23-feet long and was well preserved and each end was finely carved. The canoe was exposed when Lake Munson was drawn down.

DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY: Future Lab

By Jack Harvey

Future archaeology labs will use technology to eliminate much of the human caused GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage out) that requires tedious proofreading and meticulous *data validation* that bored so many of you in the Data Entry story. It will do it by taking the human out of data entry.

No typos. No putting data in wrong boxes. No problem with distractions between reading the lab ID form and hitting the right keys.

That's right, no keyboarding.

But then how does the data get from the lab ID forms into the computer?

By eliminating the antiquated lab ID forms, of course!

Horrors! We can't do that, lab ID forms are required so that we can file them away in binders for the lab archives. And if we don't fill

out the forms, how can experienced reviewers check them to see if the data are reasonable and complete? No, my friend, we must have the messy and often illegible traditional lab ID forms.

Oh all right, if you must have lab ID forms, the computer will print them for you, and they won't be messy and illegible either.

But what about the artifact sketches our lab workers often put on the forms?

The Future Lab will handle those too. Here, why don't I tell you how all this works? Then maybe you'll see what I'm talking about.

Good idea, because I sure don't have a clue now.

Ok, it will work in many different ways, but let's assume bags of material recovered from a Chokoloskee test unit on 02/11/2039 are being analyzed by students. After being washed and dried, they sort the material into trays, one tray per aggregation of like material from a single test unit location. For example, Betty McCoy's tray contains a shell hammer recovered from Test Unit 1, Level 2. It will also hold a computer-printed paper slip with provenience data.

Betty then places the tray on a workstation platform that weighs it and automatically sends the total weight to the computer. Adjacent to the weighing platform is a touch-screen display with operation selections.

Above the tray platform is an optical scanner. Betty's operation selection tells the computer to use the optical scanner to read the unique identification number appearing in a barcode on the tray itself. This allows the computer to look up the previously recorded weight of the empty tray and subtract it from the current total weight, giving the net weight of the hammer on the tray. The scanner also reads a barcode on the paper slip bearing the provenience data.

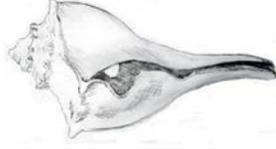
The touch-screen display then shows a list of items the tray may contain (potsherd, tool, shell, bone, etc.) Betty selects "Gastropod Hammer E" and the display changes to a list of possible species. She selects "Lightning Whelk" and now the computer has a full identification with provenience and weight.

The optical scanner can do much more than read barcodes, however. It can also generate a high definition 3D color digital photograph of the tray contents and software in the computer can then store this image as part of the final record. Other software examines the image to measure the hammer's length, completing the minimum information required.

The touch-screen now displays a selection of optional items that can be added to the record for this aggregation. McCoy selects "Add Sketch" and places her pencil sketch of the hammer on the tray for the optical scanner to digitally photograph and add to the record. Then she selects "Add Comment" and a typing keyboard appears on the touch-screen. She keys in "Hardly yused", free-form commentary included in the record. The computer corrects her spelling.

Finally, Betty taps the "Done" circle on the touch screen. Software checks that all required information has been obtained and prompts if additional is needed. It adds the date and time the analysis was done as well as the name of the student doing the work along with the project ID. When complete, it prints a unique identification slip to be included in the permanent storage bag for this artifact. (It can print a fully filled out lab ID form too, if wanted.) The final record is stored on the lab computer and also sent across campus to another computer as a backup record.

Archaeology 101 Lab Identification Form	
Artifact - Shell Tool Category	
Project 45831 Page 137	
Provenience	Work Steps
Site: BCRI	Dig Date: 02/11/2039
Test Unit: 1	Analysis Date: 02/22/2039
Level: 2	By: Betty McCoy
Artifact Storage	Analysis Results
Cabinet: Shell Tools	Type: Gastropod Hammer E
Box: BCRI-2039-8	Species: Lightning Whelk
Storage Bag: SC	Weight: 74.63 grams
Assigned ID: BCRI-128	Length: 99 mm
Auxiliary Information Available (click to display)	
1. 3D High Definition Photo	
2. Sketch by Analyst (displayed below)	
3. Analyst Comments	



Future computer generated lab ID form displaying data automatically stored in an archaeology database.

Betty McCoy's instructor can retrieve the computer record including 3D photo and sketch to her monitor to check her work.

All the technology to do this exists today, but the archaeological laboratory market is far too small to justify adapting it for our needs. However, there are many other markets, such as medical testing and research, DNA analysis (medical and forensic) as well as countless industrial applications. General purpose software, analogous to our common database programs like Excel and Access, will evolve to sell to all these myriad markets. Like setting up a spreadsheet in Excel to record our specific kinds of data, we will set up the touch-screen displays we need to automate our archaeology lab data entry.

Will I live to see this?

This will probably happen in two or three decades, largely ending the GIGO problem. But our student still has to correctly identify the shell species and hit the correct touch-screen circles. Getting the computer to identify species from the digital photo is much farther in the future. Stay tuned.

2011 FAS Annual Meeting

The 63rd annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society will be hosted by the Society's Central Florida chapter in historic Orlando, May 6-8, 2011. The Central Florida Anthropological Society is currently in talks with Comfort Inn Suites, which has a hotel within close proximity to Loch Haven Park, to set up a room block for the conference. Jason Wenzel and Kevin Gidusko will serve as conference co-chairs.

FAS Membership

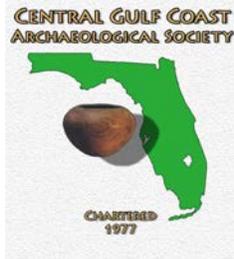
The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources and community education. Membership is made up of both professional and avocational archaeologists. Benefits of membership include the journal *The Florida Anthropologist*, 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 - \$1000; Benefactor - \$2500 or more.

CGCAS Officers/Directors

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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

