
CENTRAL GULF COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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CENTRAL GULF COAST
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER, 2013



36 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE

EDITOR: BECKY O'SULLIVAN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013, 7:00 PM

AT

WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY CENTER
1800 WEEDON DR. NE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33702



Jim Dunbar, Ph.D.
Independent Researcher

Mental Templates and a Revised Typology for Florida Paleoindian Points

How many ways are there to make lanceolate points from Southeastern Coastal Plain chert? The analysis of more than a thousand specimens has resulted in the redefinition of several well-known types and the identification of some new types. The Simpson point is redefined, Suwannee waisted points are defined, Clovis waisted (a well-known Clovis form) will be discussed as are an array of other waisted (recurvate AKA "fishtail") points. In North America the distribution of "fishtailed" Suwannee and Simpson points is unique to the Southeastern US. An equally surprising assemblage of excurvate and triangular points are also documented and will be discussed including new additions such as the Harney point.

These programs are free and open to the public. Please register at least 24 hours prior to this event by visiting <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/archaeology-lecture-series-mental-templates-and-a-revised-typology-for-florida-paleoindian-points-tickets-7607511271?aff=eorg>. You can also call 727-453-6500 to register.

CGCAS HOLIDAY PARTY



On December 14, CGCAS members celebrated the season at our annual holiday party. This year, CGCAS Board Member Bob Austin graciously offered his home on the Alafia River for the shindig. A good time was had by all, and as always the white elephant gift exchange was a success. Thanks to everyone who came out, and thanks again to Bob for being such a good host!

FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH IS COMING UP IN MARCH

Every year in March, statewide programs and events celebrating Florida Archaeology Month are designed to encourage Floridians and visitors to learn more about the archaeology and history of the state, and to preserve these important parts of Florida's rich cultural heritage. The theme for this year's Florida Archaeology Month is the Paleoindian Period in Florida. In addition to fun and educational events going on throughout the state, the Florida Anthropological Society, in partnership with the Florida Division of Historical Resources, the Florida Public Archaeology Network, and the Florida Archaeological Council also puts out a poster that celebrates the year's theme and gives information about different archaeological sites and artifacts found throughout the state.

Check in upcoming newsletters for more information about Florida Archaeology Month events in our area as well as where you can get your own poster!

EXCAVATION BEGINS IN JANUARY AT POSSIBLE PALEOINDIAN SITE IN VERO BEACH



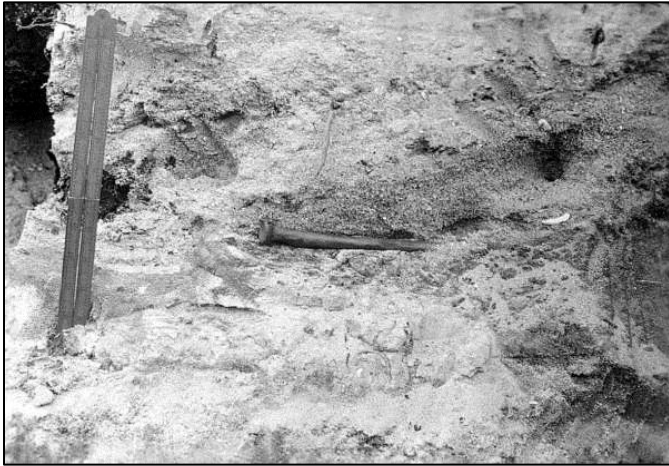
"View of canal showing where excavation for human remains was made" Image from State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.

Beginning next month, archaeologists from Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute and the Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee (OVIASC), as well as local volunteers will begin work at a site that hasn't been investigated for almost 100 years. The Old Vero Man site, located about a century ago when workers were digging the main drainage canal in Vero Beach, could shed light on some of Florida's earliest inhabitants. Human remains found there are thought by some to date back to the Paleoindian Period, possibly more than 13,000 years ago. But the site is not without some controversy; from the Miami Herald:

The dig is as much about proving whether Vero Man lived during the Ice Age as it is about settling a century-old tiff between Dr. Elias Howard Sellards, Florida's state geologist from 1907-1918, and Arles [sic] Hrdlicka, curator of the Physical Anthropology Department at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History from 1910-1940.

Sellards, who examined the site and the bones himself, determined that because the bones were found in the same stratum, or layer, of Earth as animals that went extinct in the late Ice Age — including mammoths, mastodons, giant saber-tooth tigers and bear-sized sloths — the human remains must be at least that old. However, Hrdlicka disputed Sellards' findings, saying the fossilized

human bones were only a few thousand years old and were found in the same layer as the extinct animals because humans buried their dead... "The bottom line is, as of today — a century later — nobody knows," Andrew Hemmings, professor at Mercyhurst and director of archaeology for the excavation, said. "Whatever the answer is, our goal is to get to the right answer."



"Human radius in place in the canal bank - Vero, Florida" Image from State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory.

Less than stellar fieldwork methods and preservation techniques mean that the finds from this site are still a big questions mark. Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute director, and an archaeologist not afraid of taking on a challenging early site, James Adovasio thinks the Old Vero Site could be important to understanding a little understood time period in Florida's past "From the beginning, Vero was one of the more infamous archaeological sites in North America because it was seen as such a threat to the then perceived wisdom that no humans had lived here during the last Ice Age...but, because of the phenomenal preservation of Ice Age plant and animal materials at that site, this new excavation will serve to illuminate a time frame in the American Southeast that no other site can, with or without human associations. Whatever information is in there, we are going to get it."

For more information about the upcoming excavations, check out the Old Vero Ice Age Sites Committee website here:

<http://www.oviasc.org/Welcome-to-Old-Vero-Ice-Age-Sites-Committee.html>

DUES ARE DUE!

It's that time of year again, there's a chill in the air, holiday tunes are on the radio.... and your 2014 CGCAS membership dues are just itching to be paid. Dues can be paid in a variety of convenient ways: they can be paid directly to Cheryl Shaughnessy at our monthly meetings, they can be mailed to Cheryl at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780, or they can be paid online at our website through Paypal at www.cgcas.org. Your dues are what make our monthly speaker series possible, thank you for your continued support of CGCAS!

UPCOMING WINTER-SPRING 2014 SPEAKERS FOR THE CGCAS/AWIARE LECTURE SERIES AT WEEDON ISLAND

January 16, 2014

Pirates, Protestants, Militia, and Miskitu: The Royalization of Roatan Island
Christian Wells, University of South Florida

February 20, 2014

The Ebb and Flow of Life at Late Archaic Shell Rings along the Georgia Coast
Victor D. Thompson, University of Georgia

March 13, 2014

Outside Influences, In-Place Change: Weedon Island to Safety Harbor along the Gulf Coast
Jeffrey M. Mitchem, Arkansas Archeological Survey

UPCOMING ARCHAEOLOGY EVENTS

Archaeology Works: Fishing Workshop
Saturday, January 18, 2013 from 10:00 – Noon

People have been fishing Florida's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters for thousands of years, but how did they catch their meals without the modern gear we use today? Especially along the Gulf Coast, archaeologists have found tantalizing clues about how Florida's first residents fished these waters. Learn how archaeologists study artifacts

linked to fishing like dugout canoes, ancient fishing hooks, and nets then see a thousand year old dugout canoe found at the Weedon Island Preserve for yourself.

ARCHAEOLOGY WORKS:

FISHING



WHERE: Weedon Island Preserve
1800 Weedon Dr NE, St Pete

To register, follow the link:
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/archaeology-works-fishing-tickets-8669957075?aff=eorg>

Ancient Waters Community Forum
Saturday, January 11, 2013 from 10:00 – 2:00pm



Warm Mineral Springs

Please join us for a FREE community forum about Warm Mineral Springs and Little Salt Spring.

The event includes an eight member academic panel, a Q&A for the public to ask questions, and a meet-and-greet to speak with our presenters one on one. North Port is home to two of the rarest and unique archaeological, hydrological, and geological sites in the world. Please join us to learn more!

Presenters Include:

Steve Koski: University of Miami Research Assistant at Little Salt Spring
Dr. John Gifford: Underwater archaeologist
Dr. Uzi Baram: New College of Florida Public Archaeology Lab Director and Professor of Anthropology
Dr. George Luer: Archaeologist
Michele Loger: Archaeologist
Curt Bowen: Diver/Explorer
Joe King: Expert in Sarasota School of Architecture
Walter Stein: Paleontologist

WHERE: Morgan Family Community Center
6207 West Price Blvd, North Port

For more information go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ancient-Waters-Foundation/138493106340344>

WANTED: WEBMASTER FOR THE CGCAS WEBSITE



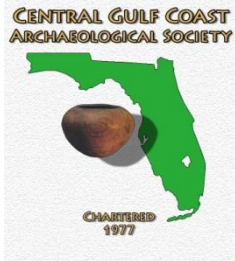
We are looking for a slightly tech-savvy individual to help out with the upkeep of the CGCAS website. No knowledge of coding or html is required; the website was designed through a fairly simple interface. If you are interested in helping out please contact Chris Hunt at cnhunt@mail.usf.edu. If you haven't already, make sure to check out the revamped CGCAS website at www.cgcas.org.

CGCAS OFFICERS\DIRECTORS

| | | | |
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| Editorial Assistants | | Bob Austin, Dave Burns | |

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 Cheryl Shaughnessy at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780

| | Dues |
|------------|----------|
| Individual | \$20.00 |
| Student | \$10.00 |
| Family | \$25.00 |
| Life | \$150.00 |

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