

Central Gulf Coast *Archaeological Society*



Newsletter

| January 2018 |

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

Upcoming Lecture:

Thursday, January 17th, 7pm

The Rocky Road from Tampa to Chicasa: Hernando de Soto's Tribulations in the Interior Southeast

Charles Cobb, PhD

Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida



The beginnings of the journey of the members of the Hernando de Soto expedition were fairly auspicious. They encountered sizable and prosperous chiefdoms ranging from Florida through Georgia and the Carolinas, and by virtue of size and military technology were able to fend off hostilities from Native Americans. Their fortunes turned sour, however, in 1540 and 1541 as major conflicts at Mabila (Alabama) and Chicasa (Mississippi) left scores of Spaniards dead and wounded, as well as major losses of pigs, horses, and equipment. Recent investigations at the Stark Farm site in eastern Mississippi have yielded a large number of likely sixteenth-century Spanish metal artifacts (e.g., adzes, axes, horse shoes) that seem to be related to the Soto encounter at Chicasa. This presentation considers the possibility of whether the Stark Farm is actually Chicasa, as well as alternative hypotheses to account for presence of European material at this location.

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>

A Few Pics from the CGCAS Holiday Party

Thanks so much to everyone who made it out to our annual holiday party at the AWIARE research station last month. We had a great turn out! Thanks so much to Linda for sharing these pictures for the newsletter. We are thankful for all our fantastic CGCAS members, and wish you all the best going into 2019.



It's That Time Again: Dues are Due!



KEEP CALM AND PAY YOUR DUES

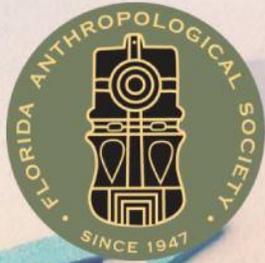
Thank you for all that you do to make this group possible (and thank you for your continued support!) We have already had a large percentage of our membership renew for 2019, so if you haven't had a chance to renew yet you are not too late. Your dollars go toward bringing top archaeological researchers from throughout Florida and the Southeast to speak in our area. CGCAS wouldn't be possible without your continued support.

Dues can be paid in a variety of convenient ways: they can be paid directly to Heather or Kassie at our monthly meetings, they can be mailed to Heather at P.O. Box 1563 Pinellas Park, FL 33780, or they can be paid online at our website through Paypal at www.cgcas.org. Again, your dues are what make our monthly speaker series possible, thank you for your continued support of CGCAS!

Mark Your Calendar a CGCAS Fieldtrip in St Pete this March!

Four city parks within bustling St. Petersburg are home to some well-known and interesting archaeological remains. Join us on a guided tour of the Pinellas Point Mound, Maximo Beach Midden, Abercrombie Park and Kutler Mound, and Jungle Prada Mound and Midden Complex. This will be a driving tour from place to place to learn about the archaeology and changes that have shaped each site, as well as the City of St. Petersburg's current efforts to preserve and interpret these important places. Transportation will be provided. Comfortable shoes

FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY 71ST ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE



MAY 10-12 2019 IN



CENTRAL GULF COAST
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SINCE 1977



FLORIDA PUBLIC
ARCHAEOLOGY
NETWORK

A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

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Crystal River

suggested, we will be doing some low to moderate walking at each site. Transportation between sites will be a small mini-bus provided by the City of St Pete that **accommodates 14 people**. Cost is \$25 per person. Look for more info in the next newsletter!

WHEN: Saturday, March 2 from 1-5pm (meet at 12:45)

WHERE: Meet at the Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon DR NE, St Pete

RSVP to Bob Austin at roc_doc@verizon.net



A view along the water at Maximo Park in St Pete.

Save the Date: 71st Annual Florida Anthropological Society Conference in Crystal River

Where were you in 1969? If we're not mistaken, the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) held its annual meetings and conference in Crystal River. 50 years later, let's go back there.

For 2019, Florida Public Archaeology Network's Central Region and the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society are honored to co-host the 71st Annual Meeting of FAS. The meeting will take place in the Manatee Capital of the World, Crystal River. The Plantation on Crystal River will serve as the Conference hotel and the location for organizational meetings and conference proceedings from May 10 to 12, 2019.

The Annual FAS Conference brings together the public, avocational, and archaeologists for a celebration of archaeology from across the state of Florida. Researchers will present on their latest findings in a laid back setting.

For more information check out the conference website at: <https://fasweb.org/annual-conference/>

Hernando de Soto in Florida: 1539–1540 Winter Encampment at Anhaica Apalachee

FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

From October 1539 through March 1540, the Spanish conquistador Hernando de Soto and his expedition of more than 600 people occupied the Apalachee capital of Anhaica, located in present-day Tallahassee. Soto had come to conquer and establish a colony in La Florida, which at that time was a vague concept of a territory covering most of the southeastern United States. To accomplish his goals, Soto brought a wide array of people including soldiers, slaves, craftspeople, and bureaucrats. He also brought along a herd of swine that he intended to use for food at a planned colony. A veteran of campaigns in Central and South America, Soto was a ruthless and skilled soldier. Despite his high hopes, after months of exploring peninsular Florida, Soto had failed to find great sources of wealth, such as gold and silver, like other conquistadors had in Mexico and Peru.

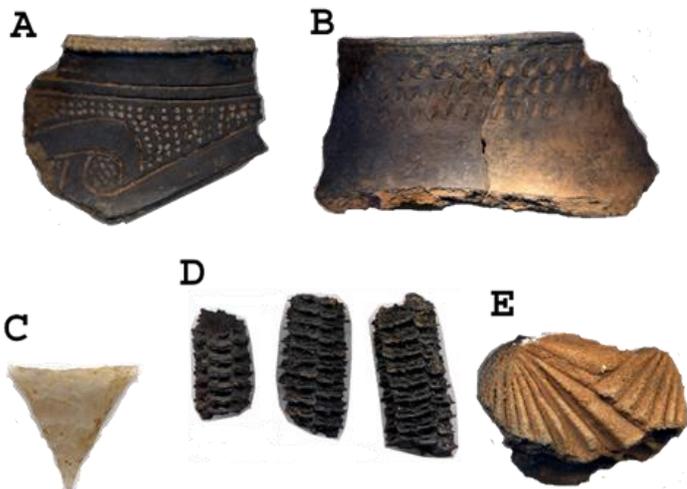
Soto was lured to the Apalachee territory following reports by their neighbors that the Apalachee were rich and powerful. After crossing the Aucilla River, Soto and his force pushed inland. Having had experience with conquistadors in the past, including Narvaéz's expedition 21 years earlier, the Apalachee abandoned their towns in anticipation of the Spaniards' arrival. The Apalachee who Soto encountered are part of the archaeological "Fort Walton" culture, a term used by archaeologists to describe patterned similarities in material cultures, especially pottery styles.



Excavations at the Martin site (8LE853b) in 1987.

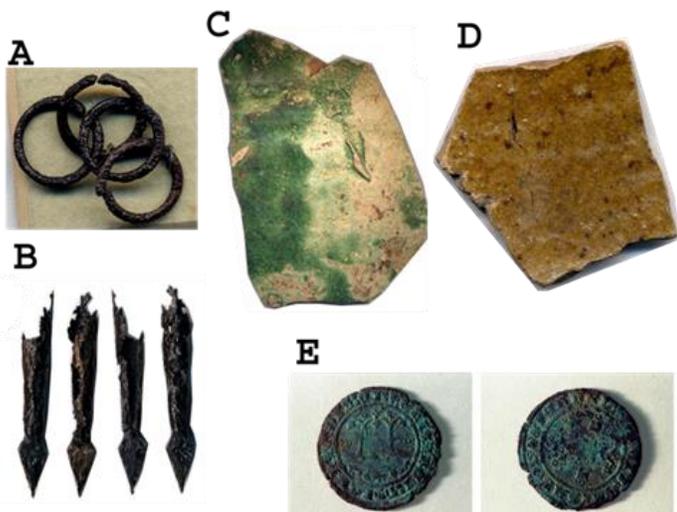
Historians and archaeologists had long puzzled over Soto's expedition route. Through reconstructing distances and landmarks noted in accounts of the expedition, researchers suspected that the 1539–1540 winter encampment would be located in Tallahassee. Material evidence for Soto's expedition remained elusive until 1987, when Division of Historical Resources archaeologist, B. Calvin Jones (now deceased), decided to "poke around" a construction site on Lafayette street in Tallahassee. Calvin discovered a fragment of an early variety of Spanish Olive Jar, a type that could only date to the early 16th century. Further excavations uncovered chainmail, crossbow bolts, and 7-layer chevron beads; items that all date to the early to mid-1500s, and would not be expected in the later Mission-era Spanish settlements in the area. Mad Dog Construction generously allowed archaeologists with the State of Florida to excavate the site ahead of construction. The archaeologist Charles Ewen was brought on to oversee the excavation work alongside Calvin Jones. Findings confirmed the presence of an early 16th century Apalachee settlement along with Soto-related artifacts. The presence of fired clay with palm frond impressions from an Apalachee structure may confirm the burning of Anhaica by the Apalachee during Soto's occupation.

Research into the Soto winter encampment site continues. In recent years the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) has collaborated with the
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...



A sample of Apalachee artifacts from the Martin site (8LE853b). A: Fort Walton Incised pottery, B: Carrabelle Punctate pottery, C: Pinellas type projectile point, D: charred maize cobs, E: burned clay with palm frond impression.

Hernando de Soto in Florida (Cont. from Pg. 3)



A sample of early 16th century artifacts from the Soto Winter Encampment at the Martin site (8LE853b). A: pieces of conserved chainmail, B: a conserved crossbow bolt, C and D: early 16th century Olive Jar fragments, E: a four Maravedi coin that dates to the early 16th century. All images were prepared by Louis Tesar.

Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee (PAST), a local chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS), to find further evidence of the Soto encampment at Anhaica. This work has not yet yielded any finds of early 16th century Spanish material. Nevertheless, it has uncovered more evidence of the Apalachee settlement. Research efforts continue in the laboratory as well. Archaeologists at the BAR are working with colleagues at Florida State University and the University of Florida to apply cutting-edge chemical analyses to learn more about the encampment site. BAR archaeologists are currently using an advanced form of analysis to learn about the chemical compositions of distinct seven-layer chevron beads found at the site and are comparing them to beads from other early 16th century sites in Florida in an attempt to distinguish between the beads from different early conquistador expeditions. Archaeologists at the BAR also hope to learn about the source and manufacture of these essential trade items that served as conduits for early contact between Indians and Europeans.

If you are ever in Tallahassee you can visit this interesting site for yourself! An exhibit, featuring artifacts from the Hernando de Soto Winter Encampment Site excavation, is open to the public at the Governor Martin House, B. Calvin Jones Center for Archaeology (1001 Desoto Park Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32301)

Mac Perry Public Archaeology Student Paper Competition

In honor of the memory of longtime Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS) member Mac Perry's dedication to bringing archaeological knowledge to the public, CGCAS is starting a student paper competition. Just as Mac did with his book *Indian Mounds You Can Visit*, CGCAS hopes to promote the dissemination of archaeological research and findings to the general public in an engaging manner through this student paper competition.

The goal of this competition is to encourage students of archaeology, whether at the **undergraduate** or **graduate** level, to present their research in a way that is interesting and accessible to the general public. Students should try to present their archaeological research in a way that is inspiring, accessible, and interesting, without sacrificing the scholarly content or findings of their work. Papers will be judged on how well they represent this goal. Papers should be 8-10 pages and should be submitted along with a PowerPoint presentation (other presentation formats such as Prezi are also acceptable) to go along with the paper.

The selected student will receive \$200 and will be expected to present their work at the March meeting and lecture series of the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (Thursday March 21, 2019) at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center in St Petersburg. The winner must present their paper to the general membership in order to receive their prize. **Paper title, abstract, and contact information for the student (including name, email, university enrolled in, and level of education) should be submitted to Becky O'Sullivan at rosulliv@usf.edu before January 23rd, 2019.** For more information please contact Becky O'Sullivan at rosulliv@usf.edu.

Who can submit a paper? Undergraduate or Graduate level students in Anthropology, Archaeology, History, or related fields. Papers related to research in Florida or the Southeast are preferred. You can even submit a paper you prepared for something else, or plan to present at an upcoming conference!

Deadline to Submit Paper and Powerpoint: February 13th, 2019

Still a few spots available – CGCAS Fieldtrip to Historic Spanish Point this February!



TOP: View of the water and historic boats. CENTER: Pioneer Cemetery and reconstructed chapel. BOTTOM: Window Into the Mound gives visitors an inside view of a real midden.

With an archaeological record that encompasses approximately 5,000 years of Florida prehistory, Historic Spanish Point is referred to as one of the largest intact actively preserved archaeological sites of the prehistoric period on the Gulf Coast of Florida. The museum's "A Window to the Past" exhibition is the only place in the country where visitors go inside a prehistoric shell midden and are surrounded on three sides by evidence of the past. The rich heritage of human habitation at Historic Spanish Point entered a new phase in 1867 when John Greene Webb and his family from Utica, New York, established a homestead on the shores of Little Sarasota Bay. To experience the 140 year old pioneer heritage preserved and interpreted at Historic Spanish Point, visitors may tour the carefully maintained 1901 Guptill House, the reconstructed Mary's Chapel, and a reconstruction of the Webb Citrus Packing House.

CGCAS is planning a fieldtrip to visit Historic Spanish Point in Osprey this coming February, we hope you can join us! We will get a guided tram tour of the various archaeological sites within the park, then go out to lunch at a nearby waterfront restaurant. See below for more details or email Linda at lindaallred18@gmail.com to RSVP, spaces on the tram are limited.

WHEN: Saturday, February 9th, 2019
WHERE: Historic Spanish Point, 337 N Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL

ADMISSION: Adults: \$15 per person, Seniors (65+): \$12 per person
Active Duty Military and Veterans with a CAC Card or VA card: \$12

UPCOMING EVENTS!



Archaeology Works: Plants and People

Saturday, January 26th
from 11am-Noon

Weedon Island Preserve,
1800 Weedon DR NE,
St Petersburg, FL



MIHS

Marco Island Historical Society

Public Opening: Key Marco Artifacts Exhibit

January 26th starting at
9:30am

Marco Island Historical
Museum
180 S Heathwood Dr,
Marco Island, FL
www.themihs.info

The Cat is Back!



From SMITHSONIAN.COM

They say that cats have nine lives, but how many lives would one live in say 1,500 years? Meet the Key Marco Cat, the world-famous cat statuette estimated to have been made between 500 and 1,500 years ago, as it finally returns home to Marco Island, Florida, this January.

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) will be exhibiting the Key Marco Cat and other rare Pre-Columbian Native American artifacts starting in January 2019 at the [Marco Island Historical Museum](#). This will be the first time in more than 100 years that these artifacts will be together on Marco Island since their discovery.

So, why do history lovers and anthropologists say that this exhibit will be the cat's meow? The Key Marco Cat has been described as one of the finest pieces of Pre-Columbian Native American art ever discovered in North America. At only six inches tall and carved by the Calusa Indians from native hardwood, the Key Marco Cat is a charismatic anthropomorphic feline statuette that was created hundreds of years ago. But the incredible thing is how it survived against all odds.

Discovered by anthropologist Frank Hamilton Cushing in an 1896 Key Marco excavation, the wooden figure stayed preserved because it was buried in an oxygen-free layer of

artifacts immediately began to disintegrate upon exposure to air, the Key Marco Cat survived with surprising detail.

“Perishable artifacts, like the Key Marco Cat, are rare in the archaeological record,” remarked Torben Rick, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History. “Its significance lies in the information it holds about the human past, cultural diversity, and the ways that these issues can inspire researchers and the general public.”

Now, for the first time since its discovery, the Key Marco Cat is coming home to Marco Island with other artifacts found in the same excavation, including a ceremonial mask, alligator figurehead, painted human figure and sea turtle figurehead. The artifacts are on loan from the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History and University of Pennsylvania’s Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

“This exhibition is the culmination of a long-term vision to bring these incredibly important artifacts to Marco Island on loan in order to educate and inspire people of all ages about the fascinating history of our region,” says MIHS Curator of Collections Austin Bell.

To kick off the exhibit, a free public grand opening event will be held Saturday, January 26, 2019, during Museum hours. It will include a morning ribbon cutting, live music, family-friendly activities and even a performance on the music of the Calusa by composer and musician Kat Epple and Anthropology Band. Go to www.themihs.org for more information.



Sea turtle carving from the Key Marco site, now on display at the Marco Island Historical Museum.

Check out our New Website!

When you are cruising around on the web be sure to check out our website – it is getting an update! We hope to make our website even more useful to our members with a better layout, more tabs and features, and content. Is there something you would like to see on our website? Let us know and we can work with our web designer to make it happen. Email Kassie Kemp at kkemp@usf.edu with your thoughts.

Go to www.cgcas.org to see what has changed!



PARDON OUR SHAKER BOX DUST: WE ARE EXCAVATING A NEW WEBSITE. STAY TUNED FOR THE RESULTS . . .

CGCAS was organized in 1977. We are a State-chartered non-profit organization and have dozens of members from all walks of life. We are dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's great



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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