

# Central Gulf Coast *Archaeological Society*



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

## *Newsletter*

| JANUARY 2020 |

*Thursday January 16th at 7pm*

### ***Remembering Tocobaga*** Recent Archaeology at the Safety Harbor Site in Philippe Park

***Thomas J. Pluckhahn, PhD,***  
*University of South Florida*



The Safety Harbor archaeology site (8PI2) in Philippe Park is widely assumed to represent the ruins of the Native town of Tocobaga, where the Spanish briefly established a mission and fort in the 1560s. However, the site has only been minimally investigated, and much of the work is under-reported. This talk describes the goals and preliminary results of recent archaeological investigations by the University of South Florida.

Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of South Florida. His research focuses on the understanding of small-scale social formations, particularly on the Native American societies of the Woodland period (ca. 1000 BC to AD 1050) in the American Southeast and those of the Swift Creek and Weeden Island cultures of the Gulf Coast.

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The monthly CGCAS Archaeology Lecture series is sponsored by the Alliance for Weeden Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE) and held at the Weeden 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](https://www.facebook.com/CGCASFlorida) or to the Weeden Island Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/weeden-island-preserve-cultural-and-natural-history-center-1250121017>

## Mark your Calendar for our February Speaker:

Thursday, February 20th, 7pm

### **Investigations into the Archaeology of the Anclote River Region**

*Phyllis Kolianos, M.A., RPA*

*Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc*

Within Central Peninsula Gulf Coast, the archaeology of the Anclote River is understudied and underreported relative to other population centers. In the late 1800s, S. T. Walker and F. H. Cushing noted the importance of the mounds and pre-Columbian sites on the banks of the river, and both investigated the Safford (Ormond) Mound, 8PI3, near the upstream riverine system, a reused burial mound dating over 1,500 years. Almost 20 years of investigations into the archaeology of the Anclote River region reveal some important results that support recent research at other major sites and suggest shifting population settlements and sea-level change.

Phyllis received her BA and MA degrees from the University of South Florida in Applied Anthropology, and in 2009 received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the USF, Department of Anthropology. In her past position with Pinellas County, she supported the archaeological programs and activities at Weedon Island Preserve and was instrumental in the establishment of the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc. (AWIARE) and their research station at the Preserve. Kolianos has worked for many years with the investigation and recording of area sites, and has been active with public archaeology projects, grants, and archaeological research projects involving Weedon Island's cultural resources and other lands within Pinellas County. Her most recent and on-going project is the archaeology of the Anclote River region.



## CGCAS Dues are Due

# IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES

January is CGCAS Membership renewal time! Your dues help pay for our wonderful monthly lecture series and student paper competition prize. Your continued support is what makes this organization exist, so thank you for continuing as a member of CGCAS!

You can pay your dues via PayPal at this link:

<https://cgcas.org/membership/>

You can also pay via card, cash, or check at our monthly meeting or mail your payment to:

**Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society**  
**P.O. Box 1563**  
**Pinellas Park, FL 33780**



## Mark Your Calendar for our Next CGCAS Field Trip

WHEN: February 29<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>

Join fellow CGCAS members on a fun weekend adventure in Florida's heartland! We will trek to Bok Tower Gardens and Lake Kissimmee State Park to enjoy the beautiful scenery and history of the area. More info to come in the next newsletter, but here is a sneak preview of the places we will explore:

### **Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales**

Bok Tower Gardens has offered some of Florida's most remarkable experiences to more than 23 million visitors since 1929. Through its historic landscape gardens, unique Singing Tower carillon and magnificent 1930s Mediterranean-style mansion, the Gardens offer unparalleled opportunities for artistic, cultural, personal and spiritual enrichment.

Bok Tower Gardens boasts one of the greatest works of famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. The meandering, historic landscape garden was designed to be a contemplative and informal woodland setting offering a series of romantic recesses and tranquil resting spots, picturesque vistas and breathtaking views of the Singing Tower. Acres of ferns, palms, oaks and pines fashion a lush backdrop for flowering foliage and the spectacular seasonal color of azaleas, camellias and magnolias (a highlight of our spring peak bloom season) showcasing an ever-changing work of art.



### **Lake Kissimmee State Park in Lake Wales**

Florida's cowboy heritage comes alive with living history demonstrations of the early Florida "cow hunters" in an 1876-era cow camp at Lake Kissimmee State Park. White-tailed deer, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, turkeys and bobcats have been seen in the park, located on the shores of lakes Kissimmee, Tiger and Rosalie. Visitors enjoy boating, canoeing and fishing in the picturesque lakes. Nature students can hike over 13 miles of trails to observe and study the abundant plant and animal life. Six miles of trails are open to equestrians. A large, shaded picnic area with pavilions is available.

The 1876 Cow Camp Living History Reenactment lets you travel back in time to the frontier era. You will find a Florida Cow Hunter in a frontier camp nestled under a picturesque oak hammock within the route of the cattle drive. The cow hunter will be cooking, making coffee, tending to the cattle or just resting up, until he has caught the cows in the area and moves to the next cow camp. Embrace in the rich history of the Florida Scrub Cows that roamed wild all over Florida, and the hardships of the Florida Cracker Cow Hunters men had to endure on the open trail.





## UPCOMING EVENTS!



### *Archaeology Day* **Archaeology Tour at Reflections of**

**WHEN:**           **Monday, January 20th**  
**10am to Noon**

**WHERE:**       **Reflections of Manatee**  
**1302 4th Ave E, Bradenton**

Join Reflections of Manatee and the New College Public Archaeology Lab for a guided tour of ongoing archaeological excavations along the Manatee River at this month's open house. Uzi Baram, Director of New College Public Archaeology Lab and Sherry Svekis, Project Director and Vice President of Reflections of Manatee will be on hand. Archaeologists will lead guests down to the site and give the tour.

Looking for Angola is a multidisciplinary research project, aimed at discovering the location of "Angola," a maroon community that thrived on Florida's southwest coast from 1812-1821. It was comprised of formerly enslaved Africans, free Blacks, Red Stick Creek and Seminole Indians. The efforts have focused on Manatee Mineral Spring Park in East Bradenton, where a dig turned up tiny relics from the period. The spring would have been one aspect of a larger, more diffuse community. The National Park Service recently added the site to its [Underground Railroad Network to Freedom](#).

For more information go to: <http://reflectionsofmanatee.org/>

### **Archaeology Lab at Weedon Island**

Friday, Jan 24, 10 - Noon

*Weedon Island Preserve  
Cultural & Natural History  
Center  
1800 Weedon Dr NE, St  
Petersburg*

*Ever wonder what archaeologists do with all that stuff they dig up once the fieldwork is finished? Get your hands dirty in the lab with archaeologists from the Florida Public Archaeology Network and find out! Attendees will help the archaeologists sort, wash, and ID artifacts from real study sites in the local area while learning about how researchers use these artifacts to gain knowledge of the past.*

*This program is recommended for adults and youth ages 12 and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult*

# Mac Perry Public Archaeology Student Paper Competition Call for Papers

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. Members of the CGCAS Board will be judge papers on how well they represent this goal. Papers should be 8-10 pages and should be submitted along with citations, bibliography, and visuals such as pictures, maps, illustrations, figure, etc.

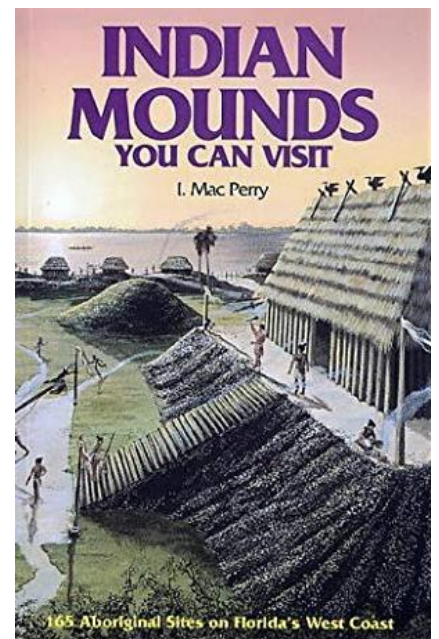
The selected student winner will receive a \$100 honorarium and will be expected to present their work at a special Archaeology on Tap event hosted by the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society at a local brewery in St Petersburg (presentation date will be an evening in early to mid May). The winner must present their research in order to receive their prize. This presentation will be in a fun and laid back atmosphere! **In addition to presenting your research at our public event, the written version of your paper will be featured in the CGCAS Bulletin, a yearly publication of our society.**

**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 [rosullivan@usf.edu](mailto:rosullivan@usf.edu) before February 17<sup>th</sup> 2020.**

**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 Completed Paper: March 23, 2020**

For more information please contact Becky O'Sullivan at [rosulliv@usf.edu](mailto:rosulliv@usf.edu).



# Archaeologists look to uncover the area's history at Manatee Mineral Springs Park

By: Michael Moore, Jr, Sarasota Herald Tribune

A historic preservation group and local archaeologists spent Manatee County's 165th birthday digging into its past. They'll spend the next few weeks doing the same until Jan. 31, when the excavation at Manatee Mineral Springs Park is set to end. Until then, that's where you'll find New College of Florida anthropology professor Uzi Baram and field director Sherry Svekis of the preservation society Reflections of Manatee — directly in the path of the expanding construction for Bradenton Riverwalk.

But before the Riverwalk expansion changes the landscape of the park, Baram, Svekis and their team of archaeologists have a 30-day window to unearth Manatee history dating back to the 1700s — an opportunity that doesn't come every day and one that Baram is thankful for. "Most archaeology is done under tremendous constraints, so you walk into a project like this knowing that you have a limited amount of time, but I'm very pleased with how things are going so far," said Baram, the director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab, who is supervising the project.

The \$100,000 excavation, which is being paid for by the City of Bradenton so they can preserve its history before the looming expansion, has already unearthed 10 boxes worth of artifacts in the week and a half of digging, according to Svekis. Some of the items have included ceramics, clay tobacco pipes, glass bottles, buttons, cotton, nails and spikes. Evidence suggests that the park was home to both Native Americans and early Manatee settlers at one point. Baram hopes that by finding little pieces of their history, he can help preserve their stories.

"We want things people can relate to so they can imagine the people who come before us — it's about saving the lives of those who have passed. The hope as an educator is that we can inspire people to want to learn more about the past," said Baram. He and his team are resurrecting the often forgotten story of the Angola freedom seekers — a group of former slaves who sought a new life and created a community of their own that stretched from Manatee River down to Sarasota Bay and may have included around 700 people before it was destroyed in 1821.

Baram hopes that by unearthing artifacts that tell the stories of these people, we can put ourselves in their shoes and glean some kind of insight from it. "We live in challenging times, but not uniquely challenging times. It's helpful to realize that people were living here that faced tremendous challenges and succeeded. The Angola story is proof of that. They struggled for their freedom and they found it here on the shores of the Manatee River," said Baram.

A few years after the Angola community dissolved, with many of its members settling in the Red Bay area of the Bahamas, Josiah Gates and his family came to settle along the Manatee River with his family in 1842 in a party led by surveyor Sam Reid. Manatee County would then be established on Jan. 9, 1855 — 165 years ago. "You can stand here and look at the river and realize that not only are you seeing the same thing that they saw, but looking at these tools can help you imagine what Josiah Gates and his family, what the Angolans, what the Native Americans all saw and felt," said Baram. Baram, Svekis and the team will be sharing their findings at an open house on Jan. 20 at the Reflections of Manatee visitor center. Supervised tours are also planned.



# Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society Board

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Newsletter:	Becky O'Sullivan	rosulliv@usf.edu

Have something for the next newsletter? Please email me!



## 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](mailto: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/](http://www.facebook.com/CGCASflorida/)

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