

Central Gulf Coast *Archaeological Society*



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

Newsletter

| SEPTEMBER 2020 |

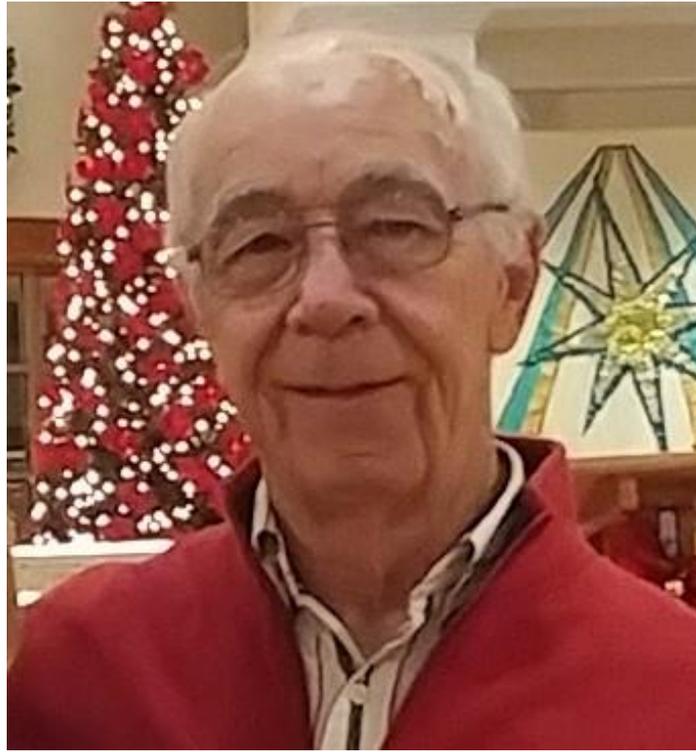


During the third week of July 1950, bulldozers began chewing away at the sides of a large shell mound in downtown St. Petersburg, bringing to an end a once iconic landmark. During the city's early development, images of Shell Mound Park were used to promote tourism and boost real estate sales. But the fact that little was known archaeologically about the mound enabled naive, and sometimes outlandish, interpretations of its origin and function to be perpetuated by the public and press. These ultimately influenced public and political perceptions of the mound's value and Shell Mound Park became a source of conflict between the forces of progress and preservation. Eventually, the mound succumbed to the advancing front of urbanization. This is that story.

Robert Austin has a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Florida and worked in the cultural resource management field for nearly 40 years before retiring in 2015. He is a co-founder of the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc. (AWIARE) where he currently serves as Treasurer and Principal Archaeologist.

Did you miss the September lecture? No problem!
Check out a recording on our Facebook page (coming soon):
www.facebook.com/CGCASflorida

In Memoriam: Tom Connors (1944 – 2020)



Attending high school in Pittsburgh, PA, Tom entered the United States Air Force, after which he attended The University of Pittsburgh, graduating as a Mechanical Engineer, P.E. After working for Johnson Controls, he was employed by The Department of Justice/Immigration and Naturalization Service in Washington, D.C. During retirement he enjoyed working and volunteering with The Florida Aquarium's dive team as a Dive Master. He was also involved with the Aquarium's Coral Spawn Project in the Keys. Tom also enjoyed scuba diving, golf, videography/video editing, tinkering in his garage, and travel with his wife of 50 years, Marcie. He was a member of the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society and served on their Board of Directors and as an Officer. Tom's warm personal Irish charm and quick wit, along with his gift of story-telling and vivacious spirit, was loved by all.



Meet the CGCAS Board



Kassie Kemp, President

Kassie Kemp earned her MA in Applied Anthropology from USF. Kassie's thesis work focused on prehistoric pottery from the Crystal River archaeological site in Citrus County. Her interests are in prehistoric archaeology, ceramic studies, GIS, and public archaeology. Kassie began working at the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) in 2013 assisting in outreach activities and is now the Database Manager for the Heritage Monitoring Scouts program. She's been a CGCAS member since 2014.



Jaime Rogers, Vice President

Jaime Rogers is the current VP of CGCAS and has served on the board for four years. He is currently a Ph.D. student at USF, where he is researching the historical ecology of Tampa Bay. He has worked on archaeological projects throughout the Southeastern U.S., Turks and Caicos, and Guatemala. He was born and raised in St. Petersburg, FL and now lives in Tampa. When not busy with classes or work, you can find him kayaking around Tampa Bay.



Heather Draskovich, Treasurer

Heather is currently an MA student at USF and earned her BA in Anthropology at USF St Pete. Her research focuses on gaining a better understanding of the Weedon Island site, where she recently led excavations of several areas of the island that had not previously surveyed. Heather enjoys fishing along Florida's Gulf Coast and playing with her new puppy.



Linda Allred, Secretary

I became a member of CGCAS in 1996 and have been a big fan of this great group ever since. Originally from Texas, I moved to St. Pete in 1976, raised two sons, and plan to retire and move to the GA mountains with fiancé Geoff sometime next year. I currently serve as CGCAS Secretary.



Becky O'Sullivan, Director

I've been a member of CGCAS since 2010 and am a past president of the chapter. I work as a professional archaeologist for FPAN at USF but my favorite aspect of my job is collaborating with avocationalists and members of the public. I love tromping through the woods, visiting historic sites, painting, antiques, and working in my garden.



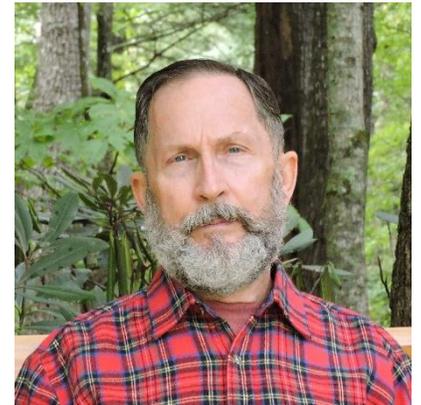
Marcie Connors, Director

I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, and graduated from Robert Morris University. During that time I was fortunate enough to make the Steelerette Team for the Pittsburgh Steelers. I then began working as a legal secretary and married Tom Connors in 1970. We moved to Alexandria, VA, where I worked as an Office Manager for a Virginia law firm, then as a Logistics Manager for an international engineering firm, retiring in 2016. I first became interested in archaeology in 1990 when George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate published a request for volunteers to assist with a "dig" located just to the left of the Estate's main kitchen. I was hooked! That dig, along with many others at the Estate and in Virginia, lasted ten years. When Tom and I relocated to Tampa in 1999, my hobby for amateur archaeology continued, leading me to assist with uncovering the ancient Indian canoes in Gainesville/Newnan's Lake in 2000. In late 2000 I joined CGCAS, serving as Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, event planner, and Board Member over the years.



Mike Mann, Director

I am Mike Mann and have been a member and on the board of CGCAS for four years. Archeology is an interest and hobby of mine and I enjoy volunteering on sites and attending our great field trips that CGCAS organizes. I am an electrical engineer for industrial robots and try to make the most out of my traveling by exploring local archeological landmarks.



Alan Bailey, Director

Alan and his spousal unit Sherry Keller started attending CGCAS lectures about 2010, and joined not too much later. In 2011, he retired from the Corps of Engineers as a civil engineer with 35 years' service. Archaeology is a near lifelong interest, after digging up an arrowhead while setting a gate post on his parents' place in about 1972.



Fred Pirone, Director

Fred Pirone is born and raised in Tampa, Florida, and is an archaeologist and a lawyer. He received his Ph.D. in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida and his J.D./MBA from American University. Current research includes the topics of human movement and interaction; the evolution of belief and cultural change; and the protection, restoration and preservation of cultural property.



Colin Lambert, Director

Hello everyone! I'm a recent graduate of USF with majors in History and Anthropology. I have just begun my archaeology career by working as a field technician with Janus Research based out of Tampa. I hope to gain further field knowledge before returning for graduate school. In addition, I was recently elected to the board and I am looking forward to assisting in society matters!

October Double-Header: Two speakers for our October 15th lecture!



FANCY POTS FOR TOUGH TIMES: RITUAL SPECIALIZATION IN THE SOUTHEASTERN US

C. Trevor Duke, PhD Candidate
University of Florida

Abstract: Modern society is highly specialized. Most people spend years acquiring the skills necessary to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, etc., and thus depend on other specialists, like farmers or butchers, to meet their everyday needs. This type of interdependence is characteristic of state-level societies with centralized economies. Conventional wisdom tells us that hunter-gatherers are generally unspecialized, diversifying daily tasks to meet the needs of their household or village. On the contrary, archaeological evidence demonstrates that hunter-gatherer societies in the Tampa Bay region embraced different forms of pottery specialization. This presentation focuses on this observation to address a critical anthropological question: What motivates people in different societies to become specialists? I argue that the tumultuous times of the Late Woodland and Mississippian periods (AD 650-1550) created the need for a network of ritual specialists that served specific purposes for Native American communities across the Lower Southeast.

C. Trevor Duke is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at the University of Florida. His research focuses on how people use labor and objects to create social relationships. His dissertation research centers around developing new methods for investigating pottery specialization in small-scale societies.



Lindsey Parsons, MA Student
Geology Department, University of Georgia

The Calusa, a group native to southwestern Florida, left extensive shell mounds and kitchen middens throughout the region up to and including the 18th century. While oysters and hard clams are known food items for the Calusa, they also ate scallops, but little is known about this food resource. The purpose of this study is to determine if the Bay Scallop *Argopecten irradians*, found in midden deposits, provide key insights into Calusa resource use during the Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age climate anomalies (A.D. 850 – 1850). I focused on two localities, the Pineland Site Complex and Bayshore Homes that are both located on the Gulf Coast of Florida. I will use body size, taphonomy, and stable isotopic analysis of deposited shells to examine how climatic factors may have influenced the scallop as a food resource as well as harvesting behaviors of native communities.

Lindsey Parsons is a second-year master's student in the Geology Department at the University of Georgia. Her focus is interdisciplinary in nature combining the practices the paleontology and archaeology to understand the resource use of scallops by native communities along the gulf coast of Florida. Her project is being funded by the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeology Research and Education, Inc. (AWIARE)/ Levitt Foundation. She currently works as a research assistant at the Laboratory of Archaeology working on an NSF funded project. She completed her undergraduate geology degree at the University of Georgia as well in 2013.



AWIARE / Levett Foundation Grant

AWIARE, in cooperation with the Levett Foundation, is again making available up to \$10,000 in grant funds to provide assistance to college or university students conducting archaeological, historical, and paleoenvironmental research in the greater Tampa Bay region of Florida.

Deadline for Applications: December 15, 2020

The Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc. (AWIARE), in cooperation with the Levett Foundation, is making available up to \$10,000 to be awarded annually to provide assistance to **graduate students (MA, MS, Ph.D.)** who are conducting archaeological, historical, and paleoenvironmental research in the greater Tampa Bay region of Florida.

Types of projects that will be considered include field research, laboratory analyses, collections research, and documents research. Priority will be given to applicants whose proposals include 1) field research at Weedon Island Preserve; 2) research using artifact, faunal, or documents collections at AWIARE; 3) field research at sites in the greater Tampa Bay area (Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee counties); 4) research using Tampa Bay area collections held elsewhere (e.g., Florida Museum of Natural History, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research, Smithsonian Institution, universities, local museums, private collections).

Research related to the Weeden Island culture and period is encouraged but not required. Paleoenvironmental research must have applicability to archaeological or historical time periods (i.e., Late Pleistocene through the modern era) and interests (e.g., human-environment interaction; effects of sea level variation on human populations; climatic variability through time).

Individuals interested in applying must be currently enrolled in a university graduate program.

The deadline for applying for the 2021 grant is December 15, 2020. Individuals interested in submitting a proposal should contact **Dr. Robert Austin, AWIARE, 1500 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702** or by email to **awiare1@gmail.com** for application guidelines.

AWIARE / Friends of Weedon Island Grant

The Friends of Weedon Island (FOWI) have contributed \$2000 to AWIARE for undergraduate student grants in 2021.

Deadline for applications: December 15, 2020

The Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, Inc. (AWIARE), in cooperation with the Friends of Weedon Island (FOWI), is making available up to \$1,000 to provide assistance to budding scholars enrolled in an undergraduate (B.A., B.S.) program in a Florida college or university. Undergraduate students conducting archaeological, historical, and paleoenvironmental research in the greater Tampa Bay region of Florida are eligible for the grant. Grant funds may be used to cover the costs associated with fieldwork, special analyses (e.g., radiocarbon dates, faunal or botanical analyses, soils analysis, etc.), collections research, documents research, travel expenses associated with research projects, and travel expenses associated with presenting a paper based on the student's research at a professional meeting.

Priority will be given to applicants whose proposals include 1) field research at Weedon Island Preserve; 2) research using artifact, faunal, or documents collections at AWIARE; 3) field research at sites in the greater Tampa Bay area (Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee counties); 4) research using Tampa Bay area collections held elsewhere (e.g., Florida Museum of Natural History, Bureau of Archaeological Research, Smithsonian Institution, universities, local museums, private collections).

Research related to the Weedon Island culture and period is encouraged but not required. Paleoenvironmental research must have applicability to archaeological or historical time periods (i.e., Late Pleistocene through the modern era) and interests (e.g., human-environment interaction; effects of sea level variation on human populations; climatic variability through time).

Students interested in applying for the grant should submit a letter not to exceed two pages that describes the project for which the funds are being requested; what research question(s) or problem(s) are being addressed; how the funds will be applied to these problems; what, if any, additional funds will be used to accomplish the research; and how the research will contribute to Florida archaeology. The applicant should include a budget indicating the amount requested and describing how the money will be spent along with a letter(s) of support from faculty.

Applications for the 2021 award are now being accepted and can be sent to: **Dr. Robert Austin, AWIARE/FOWI Student Grant, AWIARE, 1500 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702** or by email to awiare1@gmail.com. The deadline for applications is December 15, 2020.

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 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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