



CENTRAL GULF COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter SINCE 1977 October 2022

Upcoming Speaker November 17th @ 7 pm

Localized Histories of Calusa Ecology and Economy, Southwestern Florida, AD 1000 — 1500

Humans experience climate effects on scales that directly affect the availability of key subsistence resources, such as the location and abundance of fish populations. This is especially true for those populations that reside near and depend upon estuarine ecosystems where sea level change and/or changes in salinity can act as primary driving forces in the distribution and configuration of these ecosystems. The research presented here explores the local manifestations of global climate trends related to the Little Ice Age from AD 1000 — 1500 within two distinct estuarine systems in Florida, Charlotte Harbor/Pine Island Sound/San Carlos Bay and Estero Bay in Southwest Florida. It also combines this with an examination of the consequences of environmental change on economic strategies that in turn influence Indigenous sociopolitical and socioeconomic organization among the Calusa. This research utilizes high-resolution Bayesian chronological modeling, oxygen isotope geochemistry of incremental marine shell growth bands, and zooarchaeological analysis of vertebrate and invertebrate refuse at Mound Key (8LL2) and the Pineland Site Complex (8LL33, etc.), to examine local environmental conditions and evidence for deeply rooted ecological knowledge that supported complex socio-economic organization. Lastly, this presentation will examine evidence of a unique assemblage of burrfish remains recovered from archaeological deposits at Mound Key.

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[ZOOM GUIDE](#)



Dr. Isabelle Holland-Lulewicz is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Climate Science at Penn State University. She is the director for the Socio-Ecological Histories of Estuarine Landscapes (SHEL) Lab with her primary research program focusing on human-environment dynamics in the US Southeast by way of paleoenvironmental reconstruction via zooarchaeological analyses of vertebrates and invertebrates, stable isotope analysis of marine shell, and chronological modeling of anthropogenic exploitations of estuarine environments.

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual CGCAS holiday party will be on December 11th at 12 pm at the AWIARE research station on Weedon Island.

Bring a dish to share and a gift if you would like to participate in the white elephant exchange. You never know what you'll get!

Did you miss our October lecture with Dr. Neil Duncan? A recording will be posted on our Facebook soon!

The recording of our September lecture featuring Dr. Lori Lee is now available. Click the image to the right.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIP!

Join us for our trip to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens' Historic Spanish Point in Osprey

November 5th at 10 am

Cost \$12 per member (includes guided tour)

Registration is required and there are only a few openings left. To find out more details click the link above.



Window to the Past exhibit at Historic Spanish Point

With our field trip to Historic Spanish Point right around the corner, CGCAS member Alison Hardage recently shared a story about a series of coincidences related to archaeology and Spanish Point.

About 10 years ago, Alison and her daughter, Georgia, were driving past Roberts Arena in Sarasota. The venue was hosting a nautical flea market of sorts, and the vendors were packing up. They drove into the parking lot and there was Allan Horton, getting ready to haul away a "Sharpie" sailboat built by the volunteers at the boat house at Spanish Point. Clark Mills, the designer of the Optimist Pram, often said, "there's nothing like a fast little Sharpie." Alison knew she had to acquire it and asked if she could collect it in a few days when she could return with a trailer.

Allan Horton with a sailboat he constructed at Spanish Point

In the meantime, Allan explained how he and the other volunteers had been taking visitors to Spanish Point out on a quick sail with it and other similar vessels until the Coast Guard came and spoiled their fun—that is because none of them had a Captain's license and with the time, fees, and courses involved, they weren't planning on getting one. Georgia, however, was well-qualified because of her experience coaching the Green Fleet, Opti sailors at the Sarasota Sailing Squadron during her time at Ringling. Allan shared several other stories about Spanish Point and nearby Emerson Point, where his parents had been the last residents to live at the site before they, alongside many Manatee community members, fought for the state and county to acquire the land following land development proposals. This effort paid off in 1991 with the state acquisition and establishment of Emerson Point Preserve. Thanks for sharing your story with us Alison, and we will be sure to keep an eye out for Allan and the sailboats on our field trip!

On Saturday, October 15th, we celebrated International Archaeology Day at Weedon Island. It was a blast with hundreds of people from Tampa Bay coming to learn about Gulf Coast archaeology and the history of Weedon Island.

Special thanks to volunteers from CGCAS, AWIARE, USFSP, Tampa Bay History Center, and Weedon Island for making the day great!



Remembering Bill Burger

by Bob Austin

It is with sadness that we report that Bill Burger, one of Florida's most colorful and dedicated archaeologists and a former member of CGCAS, passed away on October 5, 2022 from injuries suffered in an accident in Palmetto this past June. A native of Manatee County, Bill grew up and lived in Terra Ceia, attended New College of Sarasota, and went on to get his MA in Public Archaeology from the University of South Florida. As an independent consultant, Bill conducted surveys and excavations throughout the Tampa Bay area, but his first love, and the majority of his projects, were in Manatee County. His knowledge of Manatee's prehistory and history was formidable and anyone planning to work in his backyard knew they had to consult with Bill first to be sure they had the most up-to-date information about the area's resources. A co-founder of the Awed Society, Bill could often be seen on the side of US 41 in Palmetto decked out in his hand-made blue crab outfit directing drivers and pedestrians to the annual Rubonia Mardi Gras, which he was instrumental in organizing. Bill was also fond of appearing at parties portraying a partially naked indigenous native and for stopping in the middle of intersections to perform a "dance" of his own creation known as "The Sleazy." Bill was one-of-a-kind and Florida archaeology will be a little poorer for its loss.



Bill Burger during our field trip to Emerson Point in 2017.

USF anthropologists begin transfer of ancient ancestors to Native American tribes

Published by USF Research and Innovation (10/10/2022)

The University of South Florida Department of Anthropology has begun the final steps in a long process to return the ancient ancestors of Native Americans, previously used for research, to the Seminole Tribe of Florida. USF has catalogued and curated the remains of 200 individuals collected over several decades. Many were discovered during archaeological investigations, excavations for construction projects or donated by the general public – primarily from locations in Florida.

With support from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, some of their ancestors were recently reburied on protected land. The effort is part of the National Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 that requires institutions to inventory their holdings of Native American remains and funerary objects and consult with tribes on how they want to move forward in transferring custody.

Due to their condition, archaeologists previously labeled many of the remains as “culturally unidentifiable,” and used museums and universities, such as USF, as repositories for storage. Under federal law, the institutions are now required to consult with leaders of the tribal lands where the remains had been found to determine a course of action.

Anthropology Professor Thomas Pluckhahn has reached out to more than 100 federally recognized tribes for consultation and has identified USF's collection as being affiliated with nine tribes across five states. “It's a highly complicated process as some tribes may prefer that the remains of their ancestors stay with the museum, at least for the time being,” Pluckhahn said. “Others prefer to have them reburied, but don't wish to have any physical contact with the remains – owing to spiritual prohibitions on handling them – and others want to move forward with reburial, such as the Seminole Tribe of Florida, as expeditiously as possible.”

“The repatriation of our ancestors is paramount to the health and well-being of tribal populations today. Let's not forget, the ancestors who sit in collections were erroneously stolen from their graves,” said Tina Marie Osceola, tribal member and director of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office. “The more universities like USF work to correct the wrongs of the past, it is our hope that the moral compass of society will change, and the ancestors of indigenous people are no longer collected like fossils to line shelves.”

In addition to the Seminole tribes of Florida and Oklahoma, the human remains in USF's possession are determined to be culturally affiliated with the Quapaw Nation, Osage Nation and Shawnee Tribe in Arkansas; the Hopi Tribe and the Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation in Arizona; and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Morongo Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians in California. Pluckhahn is now working to return the remains to their descendants.

Archaeology in the News

Nearly 'Erased by History': African Americans Search for Lost Graves

Archaeologists Dig Up 1,400-Year-Old Native American Canal in Alabama

Egyptian Papyrus Reveals This Old Wives' Tale is Very Old Indeed

America's Lost Crops Rewrite the History of Farming



The Society

We are a non-profit organization consisting of members from all walks of life, who are dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's great cultural heritage. Many of our members are professional archaeologists, but we also have avocational and hobbyist members who enjoy learning the history of the peoples who preceded us here in Florida and to study the artifacts they left behind.

President	Jaime Rogers
Vice President	Bob Austin
Treasurer	Kassie Kemp
Secretary	Marcie Connors
Directors	Alan Bailey
	Colin Lambert
	Frederick Pirone
	Kelsey Kreiser
	Rachael Kangas
	Lauren Levy

Membership

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Florida's cultural past and who is dedicated to the understanding and preservation of that heritage. CGCAS conducts field trips to archaeological and historical sites, assists professional archaeologists in surveys and excavations, performs laboratory analysis, and prepares reports of its findings. A monthly newsletter keeps members up to date on the Society's activities.



Central Gulf Coast
Archaeological Society

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*This newsletter issue was
made by Jaime Rogers