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# Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2007



Editor: David Burns

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## January meeting

January 18, 2007

Thursday

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center



**Kenneth E. Sassaman, Ph.D.**  
**Department of Anthropology**  
**University of Florida**

### **“Monumental Landscapes of the St. Johns Basin in Northeast Florida”**

The St. Johns River valley of northeast Florida was the location of hundreds of shell and earthen mounds, some measuring hundreds of meters long and up to 10 meters high. Scores of mounds were documented by Jeffries Wyman in the late 19th century and a bit later by antiquarian C. B. Moore. Many other mounds fell victim to shell mining in the early 20th century, long before the advent of scientific archaeology. Since 2000, Ken Sassaman and graduate students at the University of Florida have been investigating shell mounds and associated sites in the middle St. Johns region. Their work is showing that shell mounds are much older than ever thought. These findings and others are summarized in this slide-illustrated talk that promotes St. Johns shell mounds as some of the State’s most important and fascinating archaeological resources. *This event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is requested. Recommended for adults – program suitable for children 12 and older. Call (727)453-6500 for more information and to register.*

### **New Dues Payment Schedule**

Beginning January 2007, the dues for CGCAS will be collected for the coming year.

Each January will be the time to renew your membership for the next year. **Roger Block** has agreed to become Membership Secretary. Please send your renewals to him at 785 Capri Blvd., Treasure Island, FL 33706. Thanks Roger for assuming this position.

### Thanks Elaine

**Elaine Bardsley** has recently stepped down from the Membership Secretary position. We thank you for your many years of service to CGCAS.

### Next Board Meeting

The board now normally meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the St. Dunstan's Church, 126<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. in Largo. This month, however, we will meet there on Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm and everyone is invited to attend.

### 2007 Annual Meeting

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Kissimmee Valley Archaeological & Historical Society (KVAHC). It will be held in Avon Park May 11-13. Papers will be presented at the South Florida Community College Center. Anne Reynolds is Chairman and can be reached at 80 Bear Point Lane, Lake Placid, FL 33852, or at [anne@htn.net](mailto:anne@htn.net). Her phone number is (863) 465-3637. The registration form will be available soon. Further information can be found by visiting the KVAHC web site [www.kvahc.net](http://www.kvahc.net)

### New Exhibit

The Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center has a new exhibit on display at the Center. This exhibit will be there through next month.

The exhibit titled "Corridor to the Past" is a traveling exhibit from the Museum of Florida History, Division of Historical Resources that displays important archaeological discoveries east of Tampa Bay which occurred just prior to the construction of Interstate 75. This property was surveyed on the interstate right-of-way, a corridor 300 feet wide x 35 miles long, revealing Paleo and Archaic dwelling sites.

Artifacts recovered from these sites illustrate the evolution of early Indian stone technology from about 12,000 to 4,000 years ago. These discoveries illuminate prehistoric Indian life at a time when profound changes in Florida's climate helped to cause the extinction of such animals as mammoths, mastodons, and saber tooth cats.

This exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (727)-453-6500.

### Mark Your Calendar



**Dr. Al Goodyear** returns to the area on Saturday January 13, 2007. His lecture titled "Florida's First Peoples" will be held at the Science Center of Pinellas County at 1 pm. A reception for the speaker will follow his presentation. The lecture is free to members of the Science Center and is \$6 for non-members.

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On Thursday January 18, 2007 **Dr. Kenneth Sassaman**, with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida will present a program at Weedon Island. (*see page 1*)

Dr. Sassaman is an archaeologist with specialties in the Archaic Period of the American Southeast, technological change, and community patterning. He has spent most of the last 12 years conducting field research in the middle Savannah River valley of Georgia and South Carolina, and directing attention to the St. Johns region of northeast Florida. With David G. Anderson, he co-edited "Archaeology of the Mid-Holocene Southeast" published by the University Press of Florida in 1996.

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**Dr. Jerald T. Milanich**, will present a program on Thursday February 15, 2007 at the Weedon Island Center at 6:30 pm. His talk will be titled "Weedon or Weeden? And Why Can't

Archeologist Spell and Other Tales of Weedon Island Research". Pre-registration is required.

Local residents of the Greater Tampa Bay region always ask: Why isn't the archaeological culture known as Weeden Island spelled the same way as Weedon Island Preserve? Isn't the culture named for the Island? What is the matter with archaeologists anyway? Can't they spell? In his talk, Dr. Jerald T. Milanich, curator in archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, will untangle the somewhat tortuous tale of research into the Weeden Island culture (or is it Weedon Island?), an account that begins two centuries ago and extends to the present day. Even Osceola, the famed Seminole leader, is involved, though he deserves no blame for the lexicographical liberties of archaeologists.

Dr. Milanich is an American anthropologist and archeologist, specializing in Native American culture in Florida. He is Curator in Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida in Gainesville; Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida; and Adjunct Professor, Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida. Milanich holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Florida.

Dr. Milanich's research interests include Eastern United States archaeology; precolumbian Southeastern U.S. native peoples; Colonial period native American-European/Anglo relations in the America. He is the author of the widely used book "Archaeology of Precolumbian Florida". Other recent books written by Dr. Milanich include: "Frolicking Bears, Wet Vultures, and Other Oddities (2005); "Florida's Lost Tribes-Through the Eyes of an Artist (2004); "Laboring in the Fields of the Lord: Spanish Missions and Southeastern Indians" (1999); "Famous Florida Sites-Mt. Royal and Crystal River (1999); and, "Florida's Indians From Ancient Times to the Present" (1998).

In 2005, Milanich won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Archaeological Council.

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**Dr. Robin Brown** will be at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center

on March 10, 2007. This will be an all day event lasting from 10 am to 4 pm. Details will be announced in a later newsletter. Robin Brown grew up in Tampa and received his M.D. degree from Tulane University. He practiced medicine in Fort Myers for thirty-six years, retiring in 2000. A lifelong interest in the early history of Florida led to his first two books for Pineapple Press: Florida's Fossils and Florida's First People. He has written The Crafts of Florida's First People for young people because so many of them asked him to.

This will be during Florida Archaeology Month 2007 and will be an excellent chance to meet the author of these popular books on Florida's past.

### **Museum Lecture Series**

The AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum will present the 2007 Distinguished Lecture Series featuring prominent figures in the areas of Native American Art, Anthropology, History and Culture.

Events will be held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and are free to the general public. Space must be reserved on a first come first serve basis and is limited to 200 persons. Before each lecture there will be a Museum members only reception from 6-7 pm. To reserve your space please call Sara Whitehead at (864)902-1113 ext. 211.

The following is a list of the dates and speakers to be presented:

**David Hurst Thomas** - January 25, 2007 from 7-9pm. "Archaeology and Native Tribes: Building a bridge?"

**W. Richard West, Jr. and Ben Nighthorse Campbell**- February 22, 2007 from 7-9:30pm. "National Museum of the American Indian: A Resource for Tribes"

**Peter Nabokov** – March 15, 2007 from 7-9pm "Sacred Places: Historic Preservation of Our Lands"

**Bambi Kraus** – April 20, 2007 from 7-9pm "Tribal Historic Preservation Offices: An Issue of Sovereignty"

|                     |                |                                                                          |               |
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| Editorial Assistant | Dorrine Burns  |                                                                          |               |

## The Society

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 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 begins in the month of dues receipt. Contact Membership Secretary, 785 Capri Blvd., Treasure Island, FL 33706

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



**Central Gulf Coast  
Archaeological Society**  
P.O. Box 340705,  
Tampa, FL 33694.

## Membership

