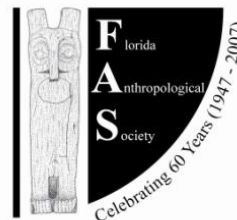

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society



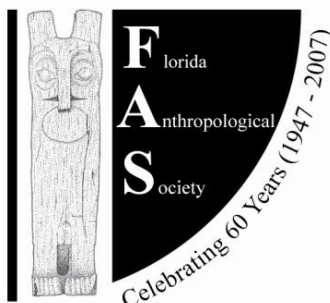
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2007



Editor: David Burns

New FAS 60th Anniversary Logo



This year, 2007, is the 60th Anniversary of FAS. As a tribute to this significant event, we will be using the “owl” logo throughout the coming year. It is for use by everyone and should be placed on all chapter correspondence.

Next Board Meeting

No board meeting was held during March. The board will begin meeting at **Panamerican Consultants, Inc.** Thanks go to **Paul Jones** for offering their offices for our meetings. They are located in Tampa just north of the airport. Directions and the date and time of the next meeting will be announced. Everyone is invited to attend.

Bayshore Homes Project

On Saturday, March 24th we started to process the artifacts recovered from the first unit and also those salvaged from the Ross-Rooney mound. We will be doing this for possibly a couple

of weeks before we start on the second unit. If you are interested in helping with this phase of work, we will meet on Saturday at the Weedon Island Center at 10:00 am. Please contact Dr. Bob Austin at 813-677-2280 or email him at bob@searchinc.com if you want to help.

Archaeology Month 2007 Event

The “Florida Archaeology Month Special event at the Weedon Island Center on Saturday March 10th was a great success. Approximately 500 people attended and saw many demonstrations of Native American crafts and technology. Thanks to all the participants for helping make this a popular event for the Weedon Island Center.



Terry Powell demonstrates how to make a canoe during the recent FAM event at Weedon Island

2008 Annual Meeting

The 60th FAS Annual Meeting* is being hosted by CGCAS. Plans are underway for this

meeting. The meeting is being held from May 3-5, 2008. The location for the talks and meetings will be the Italian Club in Ybor City. Much work and planning is still to be done and there is a great need for members to serve on committees. The main committees are registration, vendors, introducers and sponsors.

You can contact Shanna Drwiega at sdriewga@yahoo.com if you would be willing to serve on any of the above committees.

** The FAS was founded in 1947 but the first Annual Meeting wasn't until 1948.*

New Director at Panama Canal Museum

The Board of Trustees at the Panama Canal Museum voted to appoint **Elizabeth Neily** to the newly created position of Director, effective April 1, 2007.

The museum's mission is to preserve the history of the American Era of the Panama Canal 1904-1999. The museum is located at: 7985 113th Street, Suite 100, Seminole, FL 33772. The phone number is (727) 3394-9338 and its email address is panamacanalmuseum.org

"The Trail" Has a New Name

The Trail network was established in 2000 as a nonprofit organization honoring Florida's ancient people. The term "lost" in the name reflected emphasis on Florida's original native people who were devastated, and presumed to have completely vanished from the historical record due to war, disease and persecution following European contact.

As the network expanded, Modern Native American groups in Florida such as the Seminoles and Miccosukees, expressed reservations about joining the Trail because of the term "lost" in the organizations name. These Native American groups are very much alive and want to be viewed as a vibrant element of today's diverse social fabric.

Also, many of the original native people of Florida, while their numbers greatly reduced by disease and warfare, did survive and were assimilated into the Creek/Seminole and Miccosukee groups who then migrated into Florida in the late 1600's and early 1700's.

In December, 2006, the Trail Board of Directors unanimously decided to change the name

and selected **Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage** as the organizations new name. (*paraphrased from article by Dr. Roger Block in the Spring 2007 issue of "The Trail" Matters. Visit the website www.trailoffloridsindianheritage.org*)

Submarine to Search for Early Americans

When the first peoples first arrived in America, the continent was in the grips of the Ice Age. The debate on this subject is an on-going issue being investigated by many archaeologists today. Unfortunately, much of the evidence lies underwater.

Now Marine geologists and archaeologists have begun a research expedition in the Gulf of Mexico to search for underwater clues. A 44-meter long Navy research submarine, two ships, and a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) have gone to the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, about 180 kilometers off the coast of Texas and Louisiana. The expedition is being led by Robert Ballard and Kevin Mc Bride.

The submarine and ROV will survey the bottom of the reef, 120 meters deep, which is thought to have been the shoreline some 20,000 years ago. The reef is built atop large reserves of salt that Native Americans may have mined.

The expedition began this month (March 2007) so hopefully interesting reports on their progress will be forthcoming.

Mesoamerican Journey

Over the last 15 years my twin brother, Russell, and I have attended every Maya Conference in Los Angeles and have become "Maya groupies" and best friends of the leading Mesoamerican archaeologists. Russell is now co-chairman of the New World American Council in Southern California which has organized two premier Maya Conferences in 2004 and 2006. Yet the "hero twins" have not visited the famous Maya archaeological sites in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras.

A unique tour of Mesoamerica became available and Russ and I took this "Jade Road Journey" this last January/February. The tour was operated by a wonderful and capable tour company named Ecoturismo Yucatan, located in Merida,

Yucatan, Mexico. The tour company is owned and operated by Alfonso Escebedo and his wife and sister and it was led by Dr. Bruce Love, one of our favorite Maya archaeologists and a noted anthropologist as well.

On January 29th, I met Russ in Houston and we flew to Mexico City for a three day pre-tour adventure. There we took an all day tour of the world heritage archaeological site, Teotihuacan, just 30 miles northwest of Mexico City. We hired a competent tour guide and spent the day viewing the fantastic Temple of Quetzalcoatl, walking the Street of the Dead, and climbing the huge Pyramid of the Sun, the largest pyramid in the New World at 65 m or 215 feet and the Pyramid of the Moon. The second day in Mexico City we spent from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the “world class” Mexico National Museum of Anthropology. We visited each massive cultural hall including, Teotihuacan, Toltec, Mexica, Mixtec, Zapotec, Olmec, and Maya, twice! We took many pictures and saw all the famous statues, lintels, ceramics, and jade artifacts that we had seen in the books and previous Maya conferences.

We then flew to Villahermosa, Mexico, in the Gulf state of Tabasco, to join up with our tour group of seven other Maya groupies and our archaeologist guides. The first day we received a very special tour (arranged by Russell’s connections) of the very ancient Olmec site of La Venta. Dr. Rebecca Gonzalez Lauck, the La Venta Director of Research, personally gave us a detailed tour of the La Venta site and the fantastic open-air Olmec Museum, called Parque La Venta and located in a jungle park in Villahermosa. This unique tour was just the first of many exciting adventures we were to have on the tour.

The next day the tour group boarded the large van and set off for the nine day journey to all the famous Classic Maya sites in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. Our itinerary included Palenque, Bonampak, Yaxchilan, Tikal, Yax Ha, Quirigua, and Copan. We would visit one or two sites each day. At each site Alfonso Escebedo and Dr. Bruce Love would explain the sites history, read the glyphs on stela, walls and statues and give a complete history of the kings/queens and fortunes of this site in the Classic Maya era. We climbed the pyramids, clamored through the temples, slipped through the tunnels under the pyramids, and visited all the local museums located at each site.

Each site was unique and very special. However, two stand out beyond the rest. First was Tikal, the large Classic site located in the Peten forest of lowlands Guatemala. Climbing the pyramids there and standing atop the largest Maya pyramid (structure # IV) in Mesoamerica and looking across the rain forest canopy to see the ancient roof combs of Temples/pyramids # I, # II and # III was breathtaking, a site of a life time. The other supreme tour high point was taking a small motorized skiff/canoe for a one hour ride down the historic Usumacinta River to visit the remote site of Yaxchilan in the Chiapas, Mexico jungle. This site was a true Indiana Jones adventure with ancient palaces, pyramids, ball courts, and howler monkeys screaming in the overhead jungle canopy.



Figure 1 The “hero twins” with Tikal Temple #1 in the background.

Our final tour stop was a two day visit to Copan, the western most Classic Maya site in Mesoamerica. We not only climbed over the entire site with its famous ball court and hieroglyphic stairway, but we crawled down a myriad of tunnels within the complex of pyramids to view sections of the beautiful “Rosalila Temple” and the Temple of the Macaw Masks, both buried under the pyramids.

This was a two week journey with professional archaeologists leading the tour and an appreciative group of Maya enthusiasts sharing the adventure together – true trip of a lifetime. I hope to be able to present the details and pictures of the journey to CGCAS in a member meeting in the future.

Submitted by Roger Block, CGCAS Membership Secretary and Board Member

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The Society

Membership

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 all dues are payable in January. Contact Roger Block, Membership Secretary, 785 Capri Blvd., Treasure Island, FL 33706

	Dues
Regular	\$20.00
Student	10.00
Family	25.00
Life	150.00



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