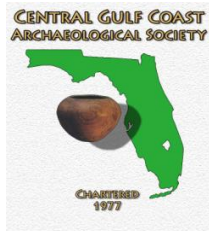

Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

www.cgcas.org



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2009



Editor: David Burns

November Meeting

Thursday December 17th

at

Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center
1800 Weedon Dr. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

7 – 8 PM.

Rethinking the Significance and Long-term Histories of Archaic Shell Mounds



Asa Randell, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Florida

The Middle St. Johns River is home to one of the highest densities of Archaic-aged (6200-3500 BP) shell mounds in the Southeast. Although many mounds were places of habitation, contemporary research indicates that some shell mounds were purposefully constructed as mortuary monuments, while others contain shellfish remains but little else. This presentation examines recent excavations conducted by the University of Florida and describes the changing significance of shell mounds over the course of the pre-pottery and pottery Archaic periods.

This program is co-sponsored by CGCAS and the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center and is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is requested. Call 727-453-6500 to register and for further information.

Annual Christmas Party 2009

This year's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at the home of Mac and Faye Perry, 8399 42nd Ave. N. St. Petersburg. The theme of this get together is "Christmas in a 9th-century Indian Village". The fun will start at 1 PM and go to at least 4 PM. Bring a dish to share and CGCAS will provide drinks/spirits, forks/plates. Bring an old item from home for the "Indian Giver Exchange". There will be a brief board meeting at 12 noon to which everyone is invited to attend. You will enjoy the live Christmas music from "Memory Lane".

Sunday
December 13th
1 to 6 P.M.
Don't miss
the fun

Christmas

in a 9th century Indian Village



*Come to the Christmas Gathering at The Bayshore Village
It's the CGCAS Christmas Party
Don't miss the celebration pre-historic Indian style*

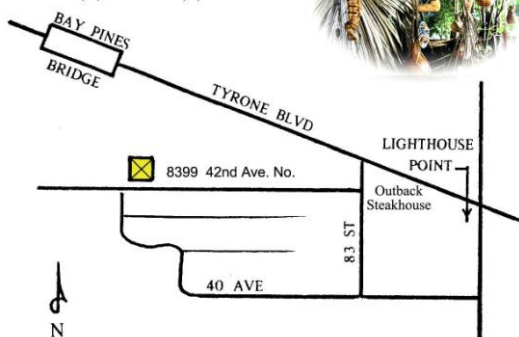
The fun starts at 1P.M. and goes on and on at the all new Faye and Mac Perry's Bayshore Village

- ◆ Bring an old item from home you can't stand to look at any more for our "Indian Giver Exchange". Wrap it crazy.
- ◆ Bring a dish to share
- ◆ CGCAS will provide drinks/spirits, forks/plates
- ◆ Short board meeting at noon
- ◆ Tour the Bayshore Village Archaeological Site
- ◆ Live Christmas music from "Memory Lane"





"The Bayshore Village"
Mac and Faye Perry
8399 42nd Ave. No, St Pete
(H) 381-7512 (C) 432-1852



"INDIAN GIVER" GIFT EXCHANGE



1. Select some old item from home that you can't stand to look at any more (or purchase something crazy from Spencer's (<\$5)
2. Wrap it in hilarious wrap or comic paper and bring it to the party and put it on the table.
3. Everyone pick a number from the basket. #1 gets to select any gift item and open it (ooooh!, glad I didn't pick that one)
4. #2 selects any gift next, or can take #1's gift (Indian Giver) and #1 gets to select again from the table.
5. Then #3 selects a gift from the table or can take away the gift from #1 or #2 and that person selects again but can't ask for the gift he/she just lost. Etc., etc, get it?
6. If an especially desired gift gets chosen 4 times, it gets frozen and no one can select it any more. The 4th person gets to keep it.
7. Be a good sport. Be an Indian Giver. The more take aways we have, the more fun it is.
8. Bartering a swap after the game ends is encouraged

CGCAS Lecture Series for 2009-2010

We have another interesting line up of speakers for the coming year. All these presentations will be at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. The dates are the second Thursday of the month with the lectures beginning at 7 pm. They are free and open to the public. Further information will be presented in future newsletters regarding each month's presentation.

January 21, 2010 – *David Steadman, Ph.D.*, Using Prehistoric Archaeology to Study Modern Biodiversity

February 18, 2010 – *Bob Carr, M.A.*, Bahamian and Florida Cultural Interactions in Prehistory through the Early 19th-Century

March 18, 2010 – *Bill Marquardt, Ph.D.*, Shell Mounds in the Southeastern U.S.: Middens, Monuments, Temple Mounds, Rings, or Works?

April 15, 2010 – *Alison Elgart, Ph.D.*, Life and Death in Southeastern Florida during the Late Archaic

It's Due Time

All memberships to CGCAS run from January to January. To join or renew you membership for the 2010 year, go to www.cgcas.org or mail your dues to: Membership Chair, P.O. Box 1563, Pinellas Park, FL 33780-1563.

Bayshore Homes Up-date

We are busy washing the material from Test Unit 5 and will begin sorting material from Column Sample 4 soon. We are doing this again at the Weedon Island Center on

Saturday mornings starting at 10 AM. Watch your emails for updates. If you have not been a part of this before, you are invited to join us. It's fun and interesting too!

Climate Not Culprit of Megafauna Extinction

About 15,000 years ago, some of the largest mammals in North America disappeared off the face of the Earth.

Evidently, my dear Watson, the climate didn't do it. Scientists weighing in on a cold case open since the end of the most recent ice age -- the massive die-offs of North America's largest mammals -- arrived at that conclusion courtesy of some very tiny clues. The spores of a fungus that thrived in and on those creatures' dung suggest changes in habitat didn't cause the extinctions. As a result, it's looking more and more like humans played a major role.

In at least some regions, megafaunal populations apparently began to wane several centuries before changes in vegetation occurred that have been linked to a climatic shift, researchers report in the Nov. 20 issue of *Science*. In fact, the team argues, die-offs of large herbivores allowed some forms of vegetation previously suppressed by incessant browsing to flourish in a post-ice age world.

Researchers have long debated what triggered the extinctions that struck North American megafauna between 14,000 and 11,000 years ago and one of the prime candidates has been habitat change caused by a warming climate. The appetites and activities of humans streaming into the continent across a land bridge from Asia provide another possible culprit.

"In North America, there's a lot of confusion because everything was happening all at once," says Jack Williams, a paleoecologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and study coauthor. The team's findings are "incredibly exciting... and is a major step forward in understanding how large herbivores shape the landscape," says Diana J. Raper, an ecologist at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Sediments that accumulated in lakes in Indiana and New York provide evidence for the claims of Williams and his colleagues. In that material, the researchers looked at long-term trends in the amounts of tree pollen, charcoal bits and spores of fungi in the genus *Sporormiella*. Digestive processes in large herbivores are an integral part of the fungi's life cycle, and spores have been isolated from the dung of ancient mammoths, Williams says. (by Sid Perkins, *Science News*)

New Name for an Old People

The Native Americans who lived along the mouth of the St. Johns River, along the beaches, and on the barrier islands left artifacts relating to their lifestyle. For years they were known as the Timucua. However recent archaeological investigations by Robert Thunen and Keith Ashley of the University of North Carolina provide information that this culture should now go by the name Mocama.

Mocama translates roughly as "of the sea". Mocama was the dialect spoken by the Timucua along the coast according to the Spanish who lived among them and named the area the Mocama province.

Among the Timucua, who were named for the language they spoke, there were probably 11 dialects. The Mocama speakers were congregated around the mouth of the St. Johns River and the nearby barrier islands.

Exhibition of the Work of Jacques Le Moyne and Theodore de Bry

The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens in Jacksonville has a current exhibit titled "Voyages to the New World: Jacques Le Moyne and Theodore de Bry" that runs through Sunday, Jan 10, 2010

Jacques Le Moyne was on the expedition to colonize Fort Caroline. Theodore de Bry's engravings of Mocama life are based on lost paintings by Le Moyne.

The engravings have been used for centuries as depictions of Native American life in Florida. Archaeologists now consider them either as unreliable or too fanciful. For instance, the helmets of the French soldiers were on backward and the Indians looked more like natives of Brazil. Plus there were mountains rising in the background. They were created to give Europeans what they wanted to see but not what was actually occurring here.

2010 FAS Annual Meeting

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) is excited to host the 62nd annual FAS meeting on May 7-9, 2010 at the Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers. Accommodations for FAS 2010 will be at the new Hotel Indigo, just a block from the Harborside Event Center and a short walk to the Caloosahatchee River.

Check the FAS website www.fasweb.org for further information.

We Welcome a New Provisional Chapter

At the last FAS board meeting, Chapter Affiliation Liaison Tommy Abood, introduced a new provisional Chapter. Willet Boyer presented information and the necessary paper work regarding the formation of the Chapter which will be located in Marion County. The Chapter will go by the name of "Ancient Ones Archaeological Society of North Central Florida". Based on the material supplied, the board elected to give this new Chapter provisional status.

FAS Membership

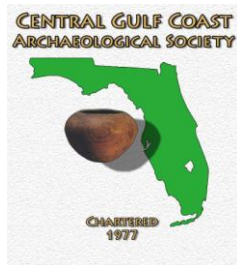
The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) is open to persons interested in anthropology, archaeology, preservation of cultural resources and community education. Membership is made up of both professional and avocational archaeologists. Benefits of membership include the journal *The Florida Anthropologist*, the *FAS Newsletter* and participation in the annual meeting in May. More information and membership forms can be found on the web site www.fasweb.org or by writing to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 13191, Pensacola, FL 32591. Dues are: Student - \$15; Regular and Institutional - \$30; Family - \$35; Sustaining - \$100; Patron - \$500; Benefactor - \$2500 or more.

CGCAS Officers/Directors

President	Bob Austin	P.O. Box 2818, Riverview, FL 33568	(813) 677-2280
Vice Pres	Shanna Drwiega	917 W. Woodland Ave, Tampa, FL 33603	(813) 383-9182
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	Jeff Moates	624 19 th St. W, Bradenton, FL 35205	(813) 396-2325
	Linda Allred	5251 42 nd Ave N., St. Petersburg, FL 33709	(727) 526-7885
Membership	Chris Hardy	1668 Nantucket Court, Palm Harbor, FL 34683	(727) 733-3636
	Karin Lovik	1225 Jeffords St. Apt. 225A, Clearwater, FL	(727) 543-6912
Web Master	Diane Kloetzer	5380 Memorial Highway, Apt. 701, Tampa, FL 33615	(813) 281-9662
Newsletter	David Burns	15128 Springview St, Tampa, FL 33624	(813) 968-7910
		e-mail: daveburns@prodigy.net	
Editorial Assistants	Dorrine Burns and Bob Austin		

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.



Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society

P.O. Box 1563,
Pinellas Park, FL 33780-1563

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 Karin Lovik, 1225 Jeffords St., Apt 225A, Clearwater, FL.

Dues

Regular	\$20.00
Student	10.00
Family	25.00
Life	150.00

