

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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We're on Facebook!
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Southwest-Florida->



SWFAS NEEDS YOU!

Have you been to an interesting local or U.S. archaeological site? Have you been lucky enough to see or participate in archaeology abroad? Tell us about it! The SWFAS Newsletter is looking for member contributions!

Write us a paragraph (or two!) about your experiences or favorite topics and you may see them in the next quarterly issue.

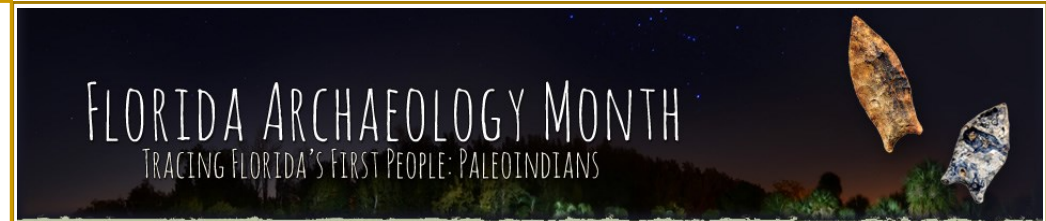
street reports, archaeological anecdotes, academic shorts, and more!

Got something you'd like to see in the newsletter? Tell us! Contact newsletter editor, Melissa Timo: mtimo@flpublicarchaeology.org or 239-223-6865



We're looking for man-on-the-

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



2014 FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH DELVES INTO FLORIDA'S EARLIEST PEOPLE

Florida's diverse history and prehistory stretches back over 12,000 years and the earliest inhabitants in Florida were Paleoindian people. They hunted megafauna, such as mastodons, as well as smaller game, and foraged for plants and other resources that dotted a colder and much drier land. These explorers set the stage for thousands of years of Native America cultural and tradition in what is now the state of Florida.

Every March, statewide programs and events celebrating Florida Archaeology Month are designed to encourage Floridians and visitors to learn more about the archaeology and history of the state, and to preserve these important parts of Florida's rich cultural heritage. Plan to attend some of the many events throughout Florida during March 2014. A full listing of events can be found at flarchmonth.com

Florida Archaeology Month is coordinated by the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS), and supported by the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. Additional sponsors for 2014 include the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), the Florida Archaeological Council, Inc., state and local museums, historical commissions, libraries, and public and private school systems. The 2014 Florida Archaeology Month poster is available through local Florida Anthropological Society chapters and can be acquired at various events sponsored by the participating organizations.

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SPRING 2014

Special points of interest:

- 3/8 & 3/9– Old Florida Festival, Collier Co Museum, Naples
- 3/15– Calusa Heritage Day– RRC, Pineland
- 3/19– March meeting @FGCU– Williams

MARCH SPEAKER

This year's Archaeology Month SWFAS Meeting and Speaker will be once again co-sponsored by FGCU's Anthropology Club. The meeting will take place on the campus of FGCU and feature FPAN SW and SE Director, Dr. Michelle Williams. Her talk, "Prehistoric Snowbirds," covers a topic that should, in part, be very familiar to those who live in Florida! Meeting is 7pm, FGCU campus, Sudgen Building, Rm SRHM114.

Prehistoric Snowbirds

We are not the first people to realize the wonders of Southern Florida; people have been living here for over 10,000 years. Come learn about these prehistoric snowbirds and the evidence they left as they made seasonal rounds throughout the United States. See if people have been traveling *your* route for thousands of years!



ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Happisburgh, UK— Scientists have discovered the earliest evidence of human footprints outside of Africa, on the Norfolk Coast in the East of England. The footprints are more than 800,000 years old and were found on the shores of Happisburgh. Researchers believe at least one male and as many as four children made the prints. They are direct evidence of the earliest known humans in northern Europe. The footprints have been described as "one of the most important discoveries, if not the most important discovery that has been made on [Britain's] shores," by Dr Nick Ashton of the British Museum. "It will rewrite our understanding of the early human occupation of Britain and indeed of Europe," he told BBC News. For more info see:

bbc.in/1cXSDGz

Northwest China— Burials preserved by dry air and salty soil in NW China have revealed the mother lode for turophiles. Yellowish clumps found on the necks and chests of the Chinese mummies found in the graves are now revealed to be the world's oldest cheese. The Chinese cheese dates back as early as 1615 BC, making it by far the most ancient ever discovered. Thanks to the quick decay of most dairy products, there isn't even a runner-up. The world's best-aged cheese seems to be a lactose-free variety that was quick and convenient to make and may have played a role in the spread of herding and dairying across Asia. To learn more visit:

usat.ly/1k8O8aS

FAM 2014 POSTERS HIGHLIGHTS LITTLE UNDERSTOOD PERIOD IN FLORIDA'S PAST

Visitors to Florida are often surprised just how long people have been living when they look at our shining strip malls, amusement parks, and beach side accommodations. But in fact archaeological evidence suggests humans have been taking advantage of Florida's resources for more than 12,000 years.

Telling the Paleoindian Period story is a tricky one.

In the past, archaeologists relied on what few artifacts they uncovered— mostly

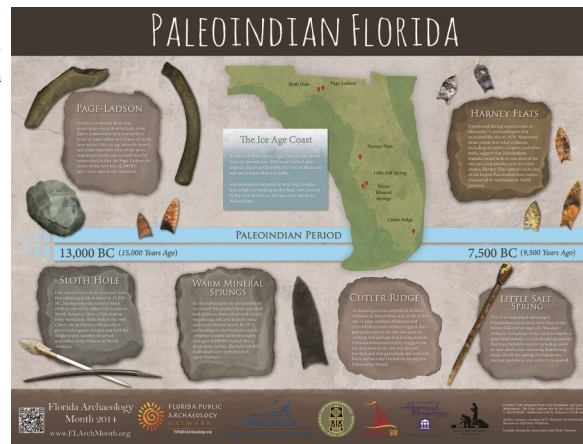
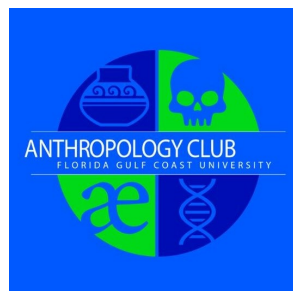
stone tools and stone tool

fragments. A reliance on perishable materials like bone, wood, and shell have lead to a skewed archaeological record and an incomplete story. Additionally, there is new evidence to suggests (unsurprisingly) that many Paleoindian communities kept to the coastline; a coastline that is, most unfortunately, now more than 100 ft underwater on the continental shelf. New research, however, is focused on these submerged sites. Projects like the Submerged New World project (NOAA and Mercyhurst University Archaeological Institute), are working to investigate new leads on landscapes that have not seen the open air in 10,000 years. Hopefully these new endeavors will balance out the current paucity of Paleoindian evidence and a new, richer story of Florida's deep human past will emerge.

To learn more about the Submerged New World project visit: <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/12newworld/welcome.html>

FGCU ANTHROPOLOGY CLUB OFFERS EXCITING SPRING LECTURES AND EVENTS

The Anthropology Club of FGCU has many activities going on through March and April. They will be touring the Mound House on Estero Island, March 13th at 12:30 pm. On March 19th at 6:30 pm, the club will be hosting the SWAFAS meeting on FGCU's Campus, Sudgen Building, Rm SRHM114. In April, the club will be hosting the 1st Annual FGCU Anthropology Colloquium. The theme this year is "Conservation through Culture". The event will be an all day affair with speakers from many different fields of Anthropology. Times and speakers to be announced shortly. Event will be held in the Sudgen building, Rm 114. For additional information contact Lauren Mueller jlmueller8287@eagle.fgcu.edu.



ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, CONT.

Vienna, Austria—An international team of archaeologists has used noninvasive technologies to map the second-century gladiatorial school near the site of Carnuntum, where at least 80 gladiator-slaves lived in a two-story building. The facility, the first of its kind found by scientists outside of Rome, had a practice arena, heated floors for winter training, baths, infirmaries, plumbing, and a graveyard. It was more like a fortress where the men were kept as prisoners, according to Wolfgang Neubauer of the University of Vienna, whose team recently published its findings. For more info see: bit.ly/1kSMCS

Mexico City, Mexico— Archaeologists digging beneath an apartment building in Mexico City have discovered the remains of 12 dogs buried sometime between 1350 and 1520 A.D. Dogs were considered sacred animals by the Aztecs, who believed they accompanied human souls to the afterlife. While archaeologists have found isolated dog burials at Aztec sites before, this is the first time multiple dogs have been discovered buried together. See more at: wapo.st/MzjRTG

2014 POSTERS SPOTLIGHT TWO OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S MOST INTERESTING SINKHOLES



Little Salt Springs (North Port, FL) artifacts included an extinct land tortoise dinner and an oak boomerang.



Warm Mineral Spring (North Port, FL) contains excellent paleoenvironmental evidence and a 9,000 yr old human burial with grave goods including a fragmentary shell atlatl. FREE posters available at SWFAS and FPAN events.