



Atlanta Antiquity

Newsletter of the Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society for
February 2010

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society or its board of directors. Articles, comments, and responses to items contained herein are invited

February Meeting

Our speaker for the next meeting will be **Scot Keith** who will talk about the Leake Site in Bartow County. Scott describes his talk as follows:

The Leake Site: History and Future of a Prehistoric Ceremonial Center in Northwest Georgia - Located along the Etowah River near Cartersville, Georgia, the Leake archaeological site represents a significant prehistoric mound center. The primary occupation of the site dates to the Middle Woodland period, during which at least three earthen mounds and a large ditch enclosure were constructed. During this period, the site was a gateway city that linked the Southeast and the Midwest regions, functioning as a ceremonial center for peoples from throughout the Eastern U.S. With the exception of portions owned and protected by Bartow County and Cartersville, the significant archaeological deposits at Leake are in jeopardy of being lost to development. In an effort to raise awareness of this significant historic resource, the site was recently listed on the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation's Places in Peril for 2010.

Also, at the meeting will be Peachtree Creek collectors Ansley Abraham and John Mayes who will bring things for show-and-tell. The show-and-tell will take place before the talk, starting at 7 pm sharp.

The meeting will be on February 9 at the Fernbank Museum and the talk will begin at 7:30pm following the show-and-tell.

GAAS Membership Bonus

(Jack Kilgore)

Paid members of GAAS receive, in addition to all of their other great benefits, at no additional charge, insurance coverage for all of the GAAS sponsored events they attend, including regular and called GAAS meetings. Coverage is provided for costs of any accidental injury a member sustains while on a GAAS sponsored event. Coverage is included during travel to and from such events. Benefits include 100% of any unpaid costs, up to \$25,000, for deductibles and co-pays for other insurance a member may have. If a member has no other coverages, benefits are paid from the first dollar of cost. Benefits are also included for accidental death and dismemberment.

If you have already paid your 2010 GAAS dues, THANK YOU! If you have not yet renewed, please complete the Membership Application and Renewal Form NOW. 2010 is being another GREAT YEAR for GAAS members.

GAAS Membership Renewal for 2010

(Carol Reed, Treasurer)

Although most GAAS members have paid their dues for 2010, several have not. Refer to the form on the back of this newsletter for cost information. You can fill out this form and send it along with your check to the address included on the form. If you are renewing your SGA membership along with your GAAS membership, you save \$5.00 on the SGA membership. Please send your SGA renewal within the next 3 weeks since I will need to send in all SGA renewals before March. Remember, your GAAS membership entitles you to our outstanding monthly newsletter, as well as insurance against accidents incurred during participation in any GAAS sponsored or supported project. Currently we have \$1,526.00 in our treasury.

GAAS Information

Hot Line 770-452-0009

Get info about GAAS activities!

GARS and Fort Daniel Foundation

(Jim D'Angelo)

The next General Meeting of GARS will February 11 at 7 p.m. in Conference Room B of the Gwinnett Administration and Justice Center. Please note the change of meeting date to the second Thursday of the month. Please always check our web site for meeting information

as the meeting day can change due to scheduling issues with the County. The program on the 11th will include a multi-media presentation entitled: **The Roots of GARS: 2003 Archaeological Investigations at the Graves Soapstone Site**. Several GAAS members were a part of those excavations. GARS has obtained never-before-seen video of the dig shot by the County that will be integrated into the presentation. Plans for 2010 programs, field trips and projects will be announced at that meeting, as well as an update on the Fort Daniel project, and plans of the Fort Daniel Foundation.

The Fort Daniel Foundation, Inc. has announced its first elected officers. The site archaeologist, Jim D'Angelo, has agreed to serve as President of the Foundation. Jim retired from TRC in December and will be able to devote more time on the effort to fund acquisition of the 15+ acres needed to preserve the site and create the proposed Fort Daniel Historic and Archaeological Research Park. At its January meeting the officers began the task of making appointments to its Board of Directors. Among those who have agreed to serve are GAAS member, Sue Barnard, and SGA Vice-President, Catherine Long.

Death of Frank Schnell: Georgia Archaeology Loses a Friend *(Allen Vegotsky)*

Many of you probably knew Frank Schnell and perhaps greeted him as recently as last Fall, when he and his wife were at the SGA meeting. Sadly, he died several weeks ago at age 69 in an accident and the following is based on an obituary written by Tim Chitwood of the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer.

Frank Schnell was a familiar face in Georgia archaeology for decades. Most of his career was spent in the Columbus area where he was a curator at the Columbus Museum. He retired from his museum work in 2001 and spent part of his retirement in his home in Bradenton, Florida. It was in Bradenton where he was moving Christmas tree ornaments to his attic and fell off a ladder causing fatal injuries. Frank became a leading expert on the history and prehistory of the Chattahoochee Valley. Over the years he was particularly involved in prehistoric mound villages such as the Singer-Moye mounds near Lumpkin, Georgia, the Rood mounds near Omaha, Georgia and the Cemochechobee mounds near Fort Gaines, Georgia.

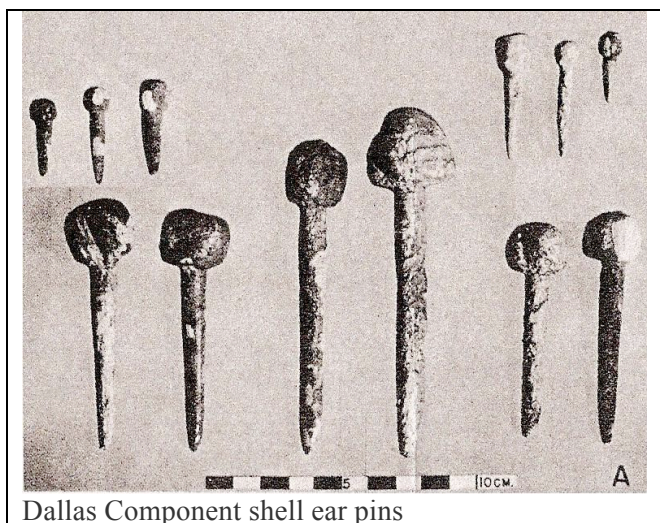
When only a teenager and a student at Columbus High School, he became fascinated with archaeology. While still in high school, he participated in field work in the summers and at 18, participated with a Smithsonian Institution team doing salvage archaeology before land was flooded to create Lake Eufala.

Frank studied archaeology at the University of Georgia where he received his undergraduate and Master's degrees. He continued at Tulane University with doctoral studies, but left Louisiana to take a position at the Columbus Museum. He became immersed in his work as a curator and remained at the museum for 35 years before retiring and moving to Florida. Frank Schnell will be missed by all of us who knew him.

Shell Ear Pins *(David Smith)*

What are shell ear pins? Are they ear ornaments and nothing else? No! This is inconsequential or secondary to what they really are. And what are they? They're badges of military rank like that of a lieutenant's bars or a general's stars. But you would say that children or women have been found buried with them and what would I say to that? I would say that it is an earned or inherited rank of the man wearing them giving the child or the wife of the man with this rank the privilege of wearing these ear pins. But the question of what they are and what they represent is so obvious. Why they are miniature war clubs. How did I figure this out when the professional archaeologist hasn't been able to in over 130 years of study?

On Oct. 16, 2009 I went to see the Templo Mayor and its museum in Mexico City which is spectacular. While walking through the museum I saw two reproductions of offering cyst found in the temple. Arranged in the cyst were the artifacts that were originally found with them. In each of the cyst were three of the most beautiful ear pins I have ever seen made of polished obsidian. Later just before the end of the tour I saw in the middle of the room a see-through case with a giant obsidian ear pin on display. I couldn't believe my eyes. I rushed across the room to see this fantastic artifact and read the caption. When I got to the case I saw the giant ear pin was really a black wooden war club. It is then I knew the shell ear pin represented a miniature war club.



Dallas Component shell ear pins

GAAS in 1989: Age Three

(Allen Vegotsky)

This is the eighth feature reviewing individual years of GAAS' history based on Newsletters and other documents. Actually this is Part 2 of my 1989 report; 1989 was my first year as a member of GAAS and my records were incomplete until Karen Oates, a Charter Member of GAAS, lent me her earlier newsletters. The first part of the 1989 report can be found in the October issue of *Atlanta Antiquity*. Briefly, in 1989, the officers of GAAS included Woody Edmiston (Pres.), Carol Schneir (Treasurer), and Walt Jung (doubling up as Sec. and Editor of what he called "The GAAS Bag," our newsletter).



Walt Jung

The new Board members were Pat Garrow, David Cross, and Susan Harvey. The lectures (previously discussed in October 2008) included Marshall Williams (magnetometry in archaeology), Jim Jennings (ancient near-Eastern archaeological sites), Eric Poplin (the Dog River Site), K. R. Burns (forensic pathology), Chip Morgan (archaeology with the Georgia D.N.R.), and Allen Vegotsky (medicine bottles at New York State's Requa Site). Also cited in the



Chip Morgan

earlier issue were field studies at Miner's Creek with David Chase and a field trip to the Dog River Site. Meetings were held in the White Hall building at Emory University.



Pat Garrow

I can now add a few more tidbits from 1989. In June, Ray Crook (then a faculty member of Georgia State University) reported on his recent excavations at Rae's Creek near Augusta. This work explored the chronological sequence from earlier archaic times to the historic period. Also in June, Pat Garrow, Woody Edmiston, and David Chase met with Manuel Maloof, who



David Chase

was then DeKalb County's CEO. The purpose was to seek support from DeKalb County for the GAAS excavation at Miner's Creek. In the August issue of the newsletter, Walt Jung described a one-day GAAS field project at the Hopewell Baptist Church assisting Pat Garrow. About 20 members participated in an attempt to save and preserve burials. Details cannot be provided for legal reasons. At the August meeting, Robert Entor reviewed archaeological sites reported by his agency, the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Flat Rock Archives "Black History Celebration"

A number of GAAS members have worked at the Flat Rock Cemetery over the past couple of years clearing away years of growth and mapping grave sites. On February 20th, 2010 Flat Rock Archives is sponsoring a "Black History Celebration" and has invited GAAS members to attend so they can be recognized for their work. Planned events include: 12 noon a tour starts at Flat Rock Archives, then continues at the Slave Cemetery, and then the Lyon Plantation. Then, at 2:30pm there will be a screening of the film "Flat Rock - Where Home Is" at the Arabia Mountain High School. GAAS members will be recognized for their work at the cemetery, so please attend if at all possible.

Summer Jobs with NPS (The National Park Service) HABS/HAER/HALS

The NPS Heritage Documentation Programs (Historic American Buildings, Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey) are soliciting applications for Summer internships.

HABS/HAER/HALS Summer Internships

The NPS Heritage Documentation Programs seek applications from qualified individuals for summer employment documenting historic sites and structures of architectural, engineering and landscape significance throughout the country. Duties involve on-site field work and the preparation of measured and interpretive drawings and written historical reports for the HABS/HAER/HALS Collection at the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. Projects last twelve weeks, beginning in May/June. Salaries range from approximately \$6,000 to \$11,000 for the summer, depending on job responsibility, locality of the project, and level of experience. Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Applications due: 8 February 2010 (postmark date).

Application forms and detailed information can be found at www.nps.gov/history/hdp/jobs/summer.htm

To view examples of HDP documentation on the Library of Congress web site, go to <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/hhhtml/hhhome.html>

Looting in Burke County, Georgia

(sent by Allen Vegotsky)

(The following report was filed in the Society of Georgia Archaeology's outstanding website, www.thesga.org.) Burke County State Court Judge Jerry Daniel in January 2010 handed down heavy fines on four east Georgia men who pled guilty to multiple counts

related to looting a Late Archaic, Stallings culture shell midden site on the Ogeechee River in southern Burke County, Georgia. The four men were apprehended on private land by Georgia Department of Natural Resources Ranger First Class Jeff Billips and Ranger First Class Grant Matherly in late September of 2009. Two were found on the site with digging tools and fled when approached by the rangers. They were caught and charged with criminal trespass and interfering with the duties of an officer. They initially pled not guilty.

The other two men were arrested the next day when they were observed in the act of digging on the site. They had a number of artifacts in their possession, including a bone tool, several spear points and a shell gorget. One of the latter two men was digging through a human burial when caught. They were charged with criminal trespass, digging on an archeological site without permission and littering, and pled guilty to all counts.

In statements made during the sentencing, Judge Daniel said he knew that important archeological sites in Burke County were being badly harmed by site looters and that he wanted to put a stop to this long-standing activity. He also emphasized that the looters were trespassing on private property, and stealing private property, since archaeological sites (with the exception of burials and associated artifacts) under law belong to the landowner. In an attempt to put an end to destructive site looting the judge levied heavy fines and penalties, which included a \$1000 fine for each count, a minimum \$7384.00 fine to repair the archeological and physical damage to the site, 12 weekends in jail, community service, three years of probation (which requires a surcharge payment of \$52/month) and a ban on attending any type of artifact show. After hearing about this heavy sentence, the first two men then pled guilty to avoid potential harsher sentencing in a trial. The three men who live outside of Burke County (one is from Swainsboro and two are from Metter) were banned from Burke County for three years. All four men have been digging on sites for many years and one acknowledged that he has dug on many sites on the Ogeechee River acknowledged selling artifacts.

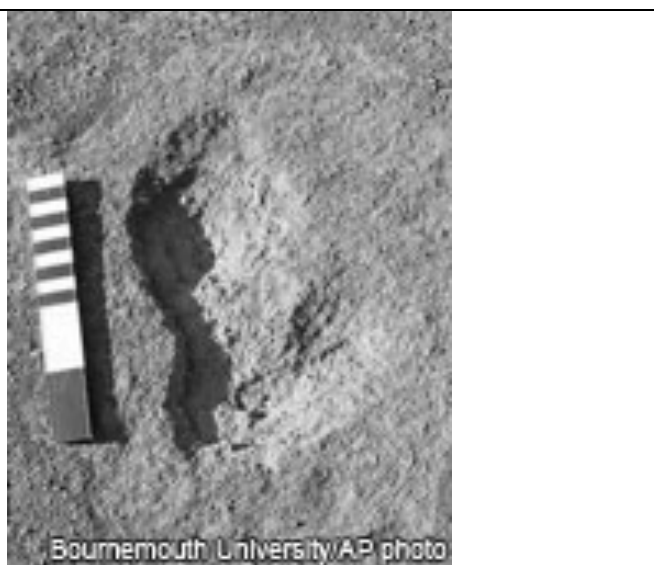
Testifying at the sentencing were State Archaeologist Dr. David Crass and Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns (GCAIC) archaeologist Tom Gresham. After the DNR officers gathered the evidence they needed, Gresham and three colleagues mapped the extent of the looting, calculating that about 290 square meters had been disturbed. They also gathered about 47 pounds of bone, 56 pounds of stone artifacts and 82 pounds of pottery. This material is now being analyzed by Jerald Ledbetter and Lisa O'Steen so that some scientific value can be salvaged from the site. The site dates to the Stallings and Thoms Creek cultures of the Late Archaic period, which spans a critical time in Georgia prehistory, from about 3500 to 4000 years ago. This was a time when

Indians in the Southeast were becoming more sedentary and began heavily exploiting freshwater shell fish.

Amazing Find in Volcanic Ash

(*NewScientist*)

Found in an abandoned quarry near Puebla, Mexico about 80 miles southeast of Mexico City, the footprints--definitively shown to be human--number in the hundreds. A third of them were made by children. Using radiocarbon testing, optically stimulated luminescence and several other testing methods, an international team led by researchers at Liverpool's John Moores University has shown that the footprints are about 38,000 years old.



In what is sure to be a controversial conclusion, the scientists have determined that human settlers arrived in the Americas some 30,000 years earlier than previously thought, report the BBC News and New Scientist. What's more, they arrived by sea and not by foot. "It's going to be an archaeological bomb, and we're up for a fight," lead researcher and geoarchaeologist Dr. Silvia Gonzalez told the BBC News. It's currently believed that the first settlers arrived about 11,000 years ago by crossing a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. This is called the Clovis First model.

Preserved as trace fossils in volcanic ash along what was once the shoreline of a volcanic lake, the footprints became as solid as concrete since they were covered in ash and lake sediments and then buried under water. Gonzalez is convinced the prints are 38,000 years old based on dating of the footprint layer, as well as the layers below and on top of the prints. "Some lake sediments were incorporated into the ash and were baked. They look like small fragments of brick and these were the ones we dated in the footprint layer. They gave us a result of 38,000 years," Gonzalez explained to the BBC News.

Co-investigator David Huddart says the existence of these footprints means the Clovis First model is no longer the first evidence of human beings in North America. Not everyone is convinced. Dr. Michael Faught, an expert in early American archaeology, told the BBC, "It would be significant if it were demonstrated, but usually those (early) sites don't hold up well."

One mystery still to be solved: From where did these Mexican settlers come? They may have come from southeast Asia or even Australia. Gonzalez thinks they arrived on the west coast in boats. She believes this group of early settlers, who were likely highly mobile hunters living in small groups, eventually became extinct and left no genetic legacy.

"If true, this would completely change our view of how and when the Americas were first colonized," Chris Stringer, head of human origins at the Natural History Museum in London, told New Scientist. The study findings will be published in the *Quaternary Science Review*.

Evidence of Stone Age Amputation Forces Rethink Over History of Surgery

(*TimesOnline*)

The surgeon was dressed in a goat or sheep skin and used a sharpened stone to amputate the arm of his patient. The operating theatre was not exactly Harley Street — more probably a wooden shelter — but the intervention was a success, and it has shed light on the medical talents of our Stone Age ancestors.

Scientists unearthed evidence of the surgery during work on an Early Neolithic tomb discovered at Buthiers-Boulancourt, about 40 miles (65km) south of Paris. They found that a remarkable degree of medical knowledge had been used to remove the left forearm of an elderly man about 6,900 years ago — suggesting that the true Flintstones were more developed than previously thought. The patient seems to have been anaesthetized, the conditions were aseptic, the cut was clean and the wound was treated, according to the French National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research (Inrap).

The revelation could force a reassessment of the history of surgery, especially because researchers have recently reported signs of two other Neolithic amputations in Germany and the Czech Republic. It was known that Stone Age doctors performed trephinations, cutting through the skull, but not amputations. "The first European farmers were therefore capable of quite sophisticated surgical acts," Inrap said. The discovery was made by Cécile Buquet-Marcon and Anaick Samzun, both archaeologists, and Philippe Charlier, a forensic scientist. It followed research on the tomb of an elderly man who lived in the Linearbandkeramik period, when European hunter-gatherers settled down to agriculture, stock-breeding and pottery. The patient was important: his grave

was 2m (6.5ft) long — bigger than most — and contained a schist axe, a flint pick and the remains of a young animal, which are evidence of high status.

The most intriguing aspect, however, was the absence of forearm and hand bones. A battery of biological, radiological and other tests showed that the humerus bone had been cut above the trochlea indent at the end “in an intentional and successful amputation”. Mrs Buquet-Marcon said that the patient, who is likely to have been a warrior, might have damaged his arm in a fall, animal attack or battle. “I don’t think you could say that those who carried out the operation were doctors in the modern sense that they did only that, but they obviously had medical knowledge,” she said.

A flintstone almost certainly served as a scalpel. Mrs Buquet-Marcon said that pain-killing plants were likely to have been used, perhaps the hallucinogenic *Datura*. “We don’t know for sure, but they would have had to find some way of keeping him still during the operation,” she said. Other plants, possibly sage, were probably used to clean the wound. “The macroscopic examination has not revealed any infection in contact with this amputation, suggesting that it was conducted in relatively aseptic conditions,” said the scientists in an article for the journal *Antiquity*. The patient survived the operation and, although he suffered from osteoarthritis, he lived for months, perhaps years, afterwards, tests revealed. Despite the loss of his forearm, the contents of his grave showed that he remained part of the community. “His disability did not exclude him from the group,” the researchers said.

The discovery demonstrates that advanced medical knowledge and complex social rules were present in Europe in about 4900BC, and that major surgery was likely to have been more common than we realized, Mrs Buquet-Marcon said.

Radiocarbon Daters Tune Up Their Time Machine

(*ScienceNOW Daily News*)

It took nearly 30 years and a lot of heated debate, but a team of researchers has finally produced what archaeologists, geologists, and other scientists have long been waiting for: a calibration curve that allows radiocarbon dating to achieve its full potential. The new curve, which now extends back 50,000 years, could help researchers work out key questions in human evolution, such as the effect of climate change on human adaptation and migrations.

The basic principle of radiocarbon dating is fairly simple. Plants and animals absorb trace amounts of radioactive carbon-14 from carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere while they are alive but stop doing so when they die. The steady decay of carbon-14 from archaeological and geological samples ticks away like a clock, and the amount of radioactive carbon left in the sample gives a reproducible indication of how old it is. Most experts consider the technical limit of radiocarbon dating to be

about 50,000 years, after which there is too little carbon-14 left to measure accurately.

There is one major glitch in the approach, however: The amount of carbon-14 in the atmosphere varies with fluctuations in solar activity and Earth's magnetic field, and "raw" radiocarbon dates have to be corrected with a calibration curve that takes these fluctuations into account.

Since the early 1980s, an international working group called INTCAL has been developing and perfecting just such a curve, a process that has unfolded in several stages. To calibrate the period extending from the present to about 12,000 years ago, the team has used thousands of overlapping tree-ring segments from the Northern Hemisphere, which provide a very accurate check of raw radiocarbon dates and how much they must be corrected. But for dates older than the available tree-ring record, the researchers had to turn to several other, less-precise data sets on ancient CO₂ levels, including fossil foraminifers (single-celled organisms that secrete calcium carbonate) and corals.

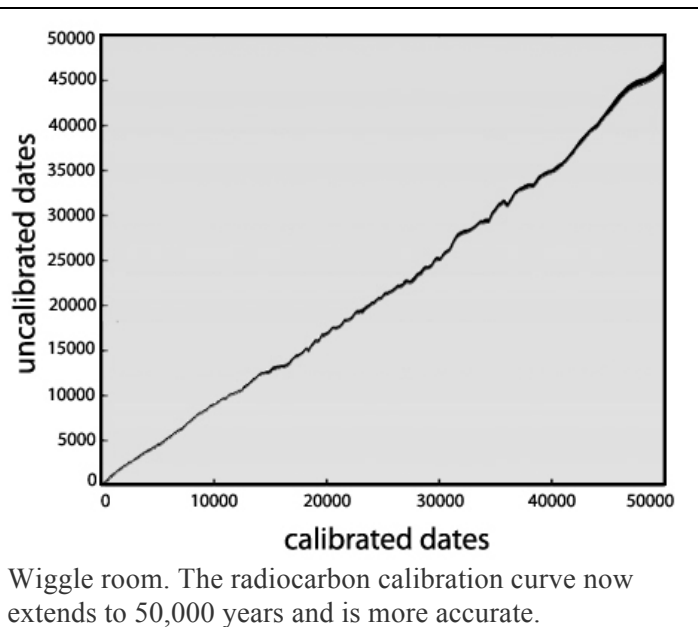
By 2004, the INTCAL group was able to agree on a curve that stretched to 26,000 years ago, because the foraminifer and coral data were in reasonably close agreement up to that point. That curve, called INTCAL04, was published the same year. But hopes to extend the curve all the way to 50,000 years ago were dashed. The data sets diverged from each other by up to several thousand years after 26,000 years ago, and researchers could not agree on which ones were most accurate and how to combine the several data sets.

More recently, however, thanks to new and more accurate data from foraminifers, corals, and other sources--plus some fancy statistical treatments that help predict which way data gaps bend the curve--the INTCAL group has been able to resolve most of the discrepancies. "It took the group quite a while to come together and agree," says INTCAL team leader Paula Reimer, a geochronologist at Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland. But the new data, combined with what Reimer calls a "real sense of necessity" among team members to resolve the debates, won the day. The new curve, called INTCAL09 and published this week in the journal *Radiocarbon*, not only extends radiocarbon calibration to 50,000 years ago but also considerably improves the earlier parts of the curve, researchers say.

Getting those dates right is critical to understanding such questions as whether humans began painting caves when the climate was colder or warmer, says Clive Gamble, an archaeologist at the University of London, Royal Holloway. For example, the raw radiocarbon dates for the spectacular paintings of horses, lions, bison, and other animals at Chauvet Cave in southern France, the oldest known cave art, come out at 32,000 years ago, right after a major cold spell hit Europe; but the new calibration curve makes the earliest paintings at Chauvet 36,500 years old, a period of relative warmth.

And John Hoffecker, an archaeologist at the University of Colorado, Boulder, says that the data sets behind the new curve will allow a more-precise correlation between radiocarbon dates and prehistoric climate reconstructions based on Greenland ice cores and other proxy indicators of ancient weather. Even before the adoption of the new curve, Hoffecker says, those data sets were suggesting that modern humans had moved into Europe about 45,000 calibrated years ago, much earlier than previously thought--and early enough for them to have had substantial contact with Neandertals over thousands of years.

Although the new curve is a major landmark, it is "definitely not the last word" in radiocarbon calibration, Reimer says. Her team is already planning an update for 2011, "as we learn more about the Earth's carbon reservoirs and how they changed over time."



Wiggle room. The radiocarbon calibration curve now extends to 50,000 years and is more accurate.

Ancient Hominids May Have Been Seafarers *(ScienceNews)*

Human ancestors that left Africa hundreds of thousands of years ago to see the rest of the world were no landlubbers. Stone hand axes unearthed on the Mediterranean island of Crete indicate that an ancient Homo species — perhaps *Homo erectus* — had used rafts or other seagoing vessels to cross from northern Africa to Europe via at least some of the larger islands in between, says archaeologist Thomas Strasser of Providence College in Rhode Island.

Several hundred double-edged cutting implements discovered at nine sites in southwestern Crete date to at least 130,000 years ago and probably much earlier, Strasser reported January 7 at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Archaeology. Many of these finds closely resemble hand axes fashioned in Africa about 800,000 years ago by *H. erectus*, he says. *H. erectus* had spread from Africa to parts of Asia and Europe by at least that time.

Until now, the oldest known human settlements on Crete dated to around 9,000 years ago. Traditional theories hold that early farming groups in southern Europe and the Middle East first navigated vessels to Crete and other Mediterranean islands at that time. "We're just going to have to accept that, as soon as hominids left Africa, they were long-distance seafarers

and rapidly spread all over the place," Strasser says. The traditional view has been that hominids (specifically, *H. erectus*) left Africa via land routes that ran from the Middle East to Europe and Asia. Other researchers have controversially suggested that *H. erectus* navigated rafts across short stretches of sea in Indonesia around 800,000 years ago and that Neandertals crossed the Strait of Gibraltar perhaps 60,000 years ago.

Questions remain about whether African hominids used Crete as a stepping stone to reach Europe or, in a Stone Age Gilligan's Island scenario, accidentally ended up on Crete from time to time when close-to-shore rafts were blown out to sea, remarks archaeologist Robert Tykot of the University of South Florida in Tampa. Only in the past decade have researchers established that people reached Crete before 6,000 years ago, Tykot says.

Strasser's team cannot yet say precisely when or for what reason hominids traveled to Crete. Large sets of hand axes found on the island suggest a fairly substantial population size, downplaying the possibility of a Gilligan Island's scenario, in Strasser's view.

In excavations conducted near Crete's southwestern coast during 2008 and 2009, Strasser's team unearthed hand axes at caves and rock shelters. Most of these sites were situated in an area called Preveli Gorge, where a river has gouged through many layers of rocky sediment. At Preveli Gorge, Stone Age artifacts were excavated from four terraces along a rocky outcrop that overlooks the Mediterranean Sea. Tectonic activity has pushed older sediment above younger sediment on Crete, so 130,000-year-old artifacts emerged from the uppermost terrace. Other terraces received age estimates of 110,000 years, 80,000 years and 45,000 years. These minimum age estimates relied on comparisons of artifact-bearing sediment to sediment from sea cores with known ages. Geologists are now assessing whether absolute dating techniques can be applied to Crete's Stone Age sites, Strasser says.

Intriguingly, he notes, hand axes found on Crete were made from local quartz but display a style typical of ancient African artifacts. "Hominids adapted to whatever material was available on the island for tool making," Strasser proposes. "There could be tools made from different types of stone in other parts of Crete."

Strasser has conducted excavations on Crete for the past 20 years. He had been searching for relatively small implements that would have been made from chunks of chert no more than 11,000 years ago. But a current team member, archaeologist Curtis Runnels of Boston University, pointed out that Stone Age folk would likely have favored quartz for their larger implements. "Once we started looking for quartz tools, everything changed," Strasser says.

Announcements *(Leslie Perry, Terry Hynes, & Allen Vegotsky)*

March 18, 2010 at 7:00pm - AIA National Sponsored Lectures - **Jitse H.F. Dijkstra**, University of Ottawa, *Scratched in Stone: The Isis Temple Graffiti Project*, Reception Hall, Michael C. Carlos Museum, 571 South Kilgo Circle

April 22, 2010 at 7:00pm - AIA National Sponsored Lectures - **Robert Lindley Vann**, University of Maryland (Jashemski Lecture), *The Palace and Garden Complex of Kasayapa in Sigiriya (Sri Lanka)*, Reception Hall, Michael C. Carlos Museum, 571 South Kilgo Circle

May 15, 2010 – Spring meeting of the Society for Georgia Archaeology - The Parks at Chehaw, Albany - www.thesga.org

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Annual Dues for the Year 2010, Check Membership type:	Information About You: (Please Print)
____ Individual (\$20)	Name: _____
____ Family (\$25)	Address: _____
____ Student (\$10) School: _____	_____
____ GAAS T-shirts (\$10 each) show number of each size: ____ S ____ M ____ L ____ XL ____ XXL	Home Phone: _____
____ SGA Membership (\$20)	Work Phone: _____
	E-mail: _____

Make your check payable to G.A.A.S. and mail it along with your Membership Form to:

G.A.A.S.
3635 Spring Beauty Courts
Powder Springs, GA 30127

Reminder: If you joined GAAS in 2009 after September 30, then you are also paid-up for 2010 and need not pay dues for 2010. If you have any questions about your status, contact either the Treasurer or the Newsletter Editor.

Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society

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