

Wouter & Michael's Solo Newsletter

Monday 6 Dec 2021

What's On

Sun 12 Dec - SEA Christmas Party

Join in the festivities this Sunday for the annual SEA Christmas Party at Coconuts Restaurant. Great food, beer, Santa and much more.

Sun 12 Dec - Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix

Last race of the season

Coming Up

Sat 25 Dec Christmas Day

The News This Week

Complex at Corinth

A Bronze Age settlement and an elegant Roman bath complex were recently unearthed at the site of ancient Corinth, the Greek Ministry of Culture announced recently. The excavation at Chliomodi, Corinth not only confirmed the existence of the extensive nature of the Roman baths but also revealed the existence of a Bronze Age settlement underneath, which had previously been unknown to researchers.

Archaeologists working the dig under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Culture date the original settlement in Tenea back to the 3rd millennium BC and say that it was one of the first to be created in the northeastern Peloponnesian peninsula of Greece.

Spectacular finds from the site of Chliomodi, ancient Corinth



The purpose of this year's research, under the direction of Dr. Elenas Korka, was to further excavate the areas of the Roman baths that were excavated in 2019 and 2020, and to investigate the possible expansion of the surrounding market areas that were identified for the first time last year.



Baths from the time of the Emperor Vespasian were unearthed behind the arch of the western caldarium. An elevated floor made of clay tiles and masonry pipes were used to supply water to the series of baths and to drain the wastewater.

Roman baths at Corinth contained warm and cold rooms, locker rooms and treadmills. The warm rooms were used for the initial hot baths that people would enjoy before they moved on to cooler baths. North of these were excavated a third praefurnium of the baths, as well as the storage areas for the wood used to heat the baths.

Eight coins were found in the area, one of which dates back to the end of the second century A.D. to the beginning of the third century A.D. The rest date back to the end of the fourth century A.D. to the beginning of the fifth century. Other spectacular finds made during the excavation this year included a Roman-era bronze ring, a stone fork, lamps and even an entire marble colonnade.

However, the most meaningful discoveries made this year included the Bronze Age settlement located adjacent to the Roman baths. Archaeologists discovered the Bronze-Age settlement located just 45 meters north of the bath complex, at a depth of approximately 2 meters, covered by a two-meter-thick layer of crushed stone and ceramics shards.

The site at ancient Corinth showing the extent of the Roman bath complex



The inner walls of what the researchers believe may have been a cone-shaped wine cellar was found, consisting of large clay tiles; on the upper part there are superimposed spiral levels, which most likely allowed people to descend and climb back up from the cellar.

Among the Bronze-Age findings from that site are figurines of rams, storage vases, parts of clay hearths with engraved decorations, parts possibly of portable clay offering tables with spiral and engraved decorations, tripod legs, jugs, numerous fragments of open vessels, and bottles with black and red paint. A large number of flywheels, as well as obsidian pieces, blades and scales, as well as grinding tools, were also found at the Bronze Age site.

The baths, which have a total area of about 800 square meters include three warm rooms (caldaria) with arches overhead; their small pools (alvei) had underfloor and wall heating, courtesy of the wood-fired furnaces. There are also three praefurnia, or sauna-like rooms, as well as two cold and lukewarm bath rooms, one of which is the piscina frigida. The extensive, elegant Roman bath complex also includes locker rooms and treadmills, a three-way water filtration tank, a rainwater collection tank, and a water tower.



A gigantic hole, that may have functioned as a wine cellar was also found at the site. It dates back to the end of the 7th century.

The archaeologists believe that the public baths at Tenea were founded shortly before the middle of the second century A.D. Two new construction phases followed, one in the fourth century A.D. and another in the 5th century, during which various repairs and building extensions were carried out.

To the east of the baths, the exploration of the commercial areas continued with the opening of new sections, extending both north and south, which were bordered by roads and lanes. Six new rooms were located which seem to have provided housing at the bath complex. The excavation of the above areas helped significantly in the mapping of the urban fabric of the city, which is constantly being created with ever-greater clarity. Pottery indicating commerce was also found at the site, including Roman-era glass and ceramic cosmetics vessels, pins, and lamps, along with product storage areas and a total of 179 coins dating from the end of the second century A.D. all the way to the middle of the sixth century A.D.

Further excavations in the room where the treasure of 30 gold coins minted during the reign of emperors Marcianos, Justin I and Justinian were found in 2020, yielded more than 120 new coins, bringing the total number of coins to 202, which archaeologists believe indicates the high level of economic activity that once took place in that area.

Some of the Roman artifacts found at the Corinth baths



Deeper down, an earlier building from the late Hellenistic period was subsequently unearthed; its secrets will be unlocked during the next excavation season in 2022. Two new buildings were excavated further north and further south of the above-mentioned market areas, indicating the expansion of the city in both directions.

Teens Accidentally Catch Living Fossil

A pair of Houston, Texas, teenagers caught an impressive sea creature while fishing recently: a gargantuan alligator gar that measured nearly seven feet in length.



The alligator gar is a species of fish that traces back 100 million years, reported the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish and Aquatic Conservation. As such, they are sometimes referred to as "living fossils." Members of the species typically weigh between 100 and 160 pounds and can measure four to six feet in length. However, at their largest, alligator gars can weigh up to 350 pounds and grow up to 10 feet long.

An image of an alligator gar swimming underwater

High school seniors Charlie Oliver and Evan Adams, both 18 years old, were fishing at Houston's Buffalo Bayou on Sunday when they encountered the massive fish. However, when Oliver first sensed something large on

his line, he thought he had come across an alligator snapping turtle. For context, alligator snapping turtles are the largest species of freshwater turtles, with males usually weighing between 155 and 175 pounds.

"We catch really big alligator snapping turtles on accident all the time, so I thought that's what it was," said Oliver. "The turtles kind of stick to the bottom and just feel really heavy on the line, but a little bit into the fight, we realized it was a monster fish."

As Oliver passed Adams the line, they soon realized that the creature they had encountered was something more noteworthy than a typical snapping turtle. The teens used pieces of carp they caught earlier as bait for the fish, which took about fifteen minutes to reel in. Eventually, they saw their catch: the six-foot, 10-inch alligator gar. "You just have to let it take the bait, but then it's kind of got the same fight as any other fish, except obviously it's just so much bigger than anything else you're used to catching," explained Adams.



After measuring it and posing for some pictures, Oliver and Adams released the alligator gar back into the water.

They believe the fish weighed roughly 140 pounds which, while not a record-breaking weight, is significant for the area: this particular fish is believed to be the largest from the Houston bayou caught in the last ten years. "People were really freaked out about it, they thought something that big couldn't be swimming in their backyards," said Oliver.

A 10 foot alligator gar caught in Texas

The largest alligator gar on record was caught in 2011, by a commercial fisherman in Mississippi's Lake Chotard. The fish, which was caught by accident, measured 8.5 feet in length and weighed 327 pounds. Astonishingly, the fish was believed to be 94 years old.

Rewards For Getting This Far



FRED BASSET

You can't see me for dust today!!



Quote: "There is no downside to winning. It feels forever fabulous." – American author Pat Conroy (1945-2016)

Thought for the week: Don't judge me because I'm quiet. Noone plans a murder out aloud.

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Pat Conroy

