NEWSLETTER

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Chapter of the FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, FL 33941

Arthur R. Lee, editor | NOVEMBER, 1993 | Volume IX, Number 7

December -- Busy, Busy for SWFASers: Picnic, Canoe Trip

December will be a busy month for SWFASers.

The monthly meeting will be a picnic at the Bonita Springs home of Charlie and Gail Strader on Sunday the 12th, and the preceding Sunday, Dec. 5, there will be a canoe trip down the Turner river.

Piece de resistance at the picnic will be chicken, roasted on the spot by Vicepresident P.W. Qualls. To insure everyone's getting enough, advance reservations for the picnic will be required. They can be made by phoning Eleanore Young at 992-2074 or by signing up at the Nov. 17 meeting. A charge of $5 a person will pay for beer, wine, soft drinks and the chicken. Young also is coordinating donations of side dishes.

Participants are encouraged to bring show-and-tell items -- and chairs -- and there will be horseshoes and the usual atlatl big game hunt. Members and guests are expected to drift in after 11 o'clock,.

Canoe Trip

Vicepresident John Beriault (261-0082) is making arrangements for the canoe trip, which will give members a chance to explore an important waterway at whose mouth are the remains of a major Calusa community, marked by impressive ridges on which residential and ceremonial structures once stood.

The tour will begin at 8 a.m. with a bus ride from Everglades City to where the U.S. Highway 41 crosses the Turner river and where particpants will board canoes. Rendezvous will be at Ivy House in Everglades City. The cortege will descend the river to the archaeological site at its mouth

THE "ANCIENT ONES" OF FOUR CORNERS SUBJECT OF SLIDE SHOW

Belknap to Talk On Anasazi Cultures

In the high plateau area where the borders of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah join and in a time spread beginning at least as early as 2000 B.C., developed the Pueblo groups called the Anasazi — Navajo for "the ancient ones".

That area, and the cultures that developed there, have been studied for three decades by SWFAS members Jean and Bob Belknap, whose vehicles have probed the far reaches of its back-country.

Jean, a regular worker at the Craighead lab, will show some of the slides they have accumulated over the years, and talk about the people who had lived in the area, at SWFAS' November meeting, Wednesday the 17th, at the Bonita Springs Community Center. Gavel will be at 7:30, preceded by a social period.

Roots of the cultures the Belknaps have studied go far back in time. As the Pleistocene drew to a close and big-game cultures withdrew from the eastern part of the American Southwest, small groups with economies based on hunting and gathering occupied lands in the western edge of that area.

In what is now south and west Arizona the San Dieguito tradition developed about 7000-5500 B.C. with an economy apparently based on meat and hide processing.

However, in southeastern Arizona a different tradition was emerging as early as 7300 B.C. — one with grinding tools, "manos" and "metates", indicative of plant harvesting and processing. By 5000 years

See ANASAZI on Page Two

WORK ON MOUND KEY STARTS DEC. 7

The Florida Museum of Natural History's exploration of Big Mound Key will start Dec. 7, announces field director Corbett Torrence, with surveying which will be followed in January with excavation of test pits. The work is being done in conjunction with the Koreshan State Historic Site State Park, which is responsible for the island, and the Koreshan Community Alliance.

Torrence expects help from members of SWFAS and the Calusa Constituency. Those who are on the mailing list for the *Calusa News* will be sent letters advising them of arrangements for volunteering.

The letter will contain a phone number volunteers can call evenings to arrange transportation for the following day.

He has arranged for a pontoon boat to leave Charlie Week's fish camp at the end of Coconut road at 8 a.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays with volunteers.

SWFAS has offered use of the Craighead laboratory for analysis of material from the mound's test pits.

Broodable

Archaeology is a total study. It involves analyzing everything that remains from the past, with the aim of reconstructing that past as fully as possible. Although some people regard archaeology as synonymous with excavation, it is far more than that. Excavation is only one of many of its processes. — Jane

SWFAS DIRECTORATE
President, Wayne House; first vice president, John Beriault; second vice president, P.W. Qualls; treasurer, Jack Thompson; secretary, Jo Ann Grey; membership secretary, Lynn Lee; trustees: Walt and Mary Buschelman, Linda Robinson, Ray Seguin, Annette Snapp, Charlie Strader, Reed Toomey, Dr. Keith Waterhouse; committees: field, Beriault; public relations, Dorothy Thompson; lab, Buschelman, Jean Belknap, Art Lee.

ANASAZI from Page One

ago a degree of homogeneity had developed in three cultural areas, one of which was the Oshara tradition of northeastern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, southwestern Colorado, and southern Utah.

These cultures were marked by use of rock shelters, and occupation of lake shores and springs. There is evidence of some long-term residence but it appears that these people followed food resources with the seasons. They did process plant foods, and basketry, sandals, netting and atlatls have been found in dry caves along with seeds, nuts and grasses.

The development of these cultures saw the adoption of cultivable crops; there is evidence that by 3000 B.C. cultivation of maize-squash and maize-bean combinations had spread north from Mexico.

By 2000 B.C., in what are called "proto-Basketmaker" levels of the Four Corners region, artifacts show that limited maize production was supplementing hunting and gathering.

THE FINE SCREEN

The Craighead lab's reference library was given a boost by **Chuck Hostetler**, who replaced the lab's tattered copy of Volume 39 Number 3 of *The Florida Anthropologist*, featuring shell tools.

The combination of **John Beriault** and **Ray Seguin** has seen to it that a half-dozen forceps have been added to the Craighead lab inventory. A shortage of the tools developed as volunteers sorted through the Bonita Bay material. Beriault also has helped restore the stock of plastic bags, depleted by the project.

The **Sparks, Dr. Aubrey and Dolores**, have contributed a couple more

DYNAMIC DUO SPURS BROWARD SOCIETY TO MAJOR NEW MUSEUM

There was archaeologist Gypsy Graves, whose restless energy had driven her deep into her area's prehistory, into heroic battles with those not respecting it, to leading an all-female archaeological expedition to Egypt and to a Sisyphic struggle to pass on knowledge of the past.

There was Sam Enslow, a dynamo shooting off sparks as author, art historian, savior of and lecturer in pre-Colombian art, finca- and gallery-owner in Colombia, and resident of Graves' Ft. Lauderdale until the South American country he loves becomes more hospitable.

There were loyal members of the Broward County Archaeological Society, who had devoted treasure and time to exploration and public eduction in the area's past.

And to provide a critical mass was the museum Graves and the Archaeological Society had struggled to keep going for a decade and a half. It was housed in a decrepit building, and even its 5,000 inadequate square feet of space had to be abandoned to a civic development project.

Then, to drive those elements to implosion, came the offer of a huge, deserted factory building in nearby Dania on irresistible terms. With little ado and high hopes the old museum was closed, Society members cleaned out the new building's 50,000 square feet, renovations were started. The future looked bright; a bigger, better, museum was just around the corner.

But very soon the real world shown through the pink clouds. Cost of the move had been estimated at $100,000; it was $500,000 met, fortunately, by what Graves/Enslow call "private money". Just having the floors waxed cost $1,000; tiles $20,000. The figures mounted so high that the duo decided to go whole hog and make it a first-class museum. A series of promotions made money — and attracted public attention. Donations started to come in. Society membership was pushed to 1,000, and is expected to reach 10,000 by the end of 1995.

The museum re-opened last month, a scant year from when the old building's door slammed shut. At its opening it had 15,000 square feet in use, three times what had been available at the Ft. Lauderdale building. Where Graves/Enslow once shot from the hip, there now are management teams and systems; the operations budget has swelled seven-fold to $300,000; its staff is five rather than one, attendance is expected to jump from three or four thousand a year to over 60,000.

This month it will be showing a traveling exhibition five years ahead of schedule. It has classes in tribal American history, basket making, primitive pottery and underwater archaeology, children's tours and a story telling hour. There is laboratory space and a research library with 4,000 books and periodicals. It is exchanging exhibits with the Museum of Luxor, Egypt.

"It's the fulfillment of a dream," says Graves, "this is something South Florida needs. . . There is 12,000 years of history here that people are not aware of."

BUSY from Page One

then backtrack to Half-way Creek which leads nearly to Everglades City. Alternatively, the group may cross a waterway from Turner river to Chokoloskee. In either event, a bus will return the canoeists to Ivy House.

Arrangements will be made by participants directly with North American Canoe Tours, phone 695-4666; David Harridan is the proprietor. Charge is $32 per person, payable when reservations are made. Deadline is Dec. 3.

The tour company will provide canoes, paddles, life jackets, refreshmens at Ivy House, where the group will assemble, a box lunch and transportation to and from canoes. Individuals may take their own paddles and life jackets.

Those wishing to spend the preceding night at Everglades City can make arrangements with Ivy House; telephone number there is 695-3299.

WELCOME TO SWFAS!

The Society has welcomed to membership Blaine Crouch, Elizabeth and Michael Langston, Maureen Armour and Susan Davis, all of Naples, and Gene Cowell of Bonita Springs.

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DATEBOOK

Craighead lab hours are 9-12 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 p.m. Saturdays. In Collier County Museum grounds, Airport road and U. S. 41, Naples.

* Wednesday, Nov. 17, monthly meeting at Bonita Springs Community Center; gavel at 7:30. There will be a social period before, and a chance to buy Tee shirts and books.

* Sunday, Dec. 5, canoe trip down Turner river.

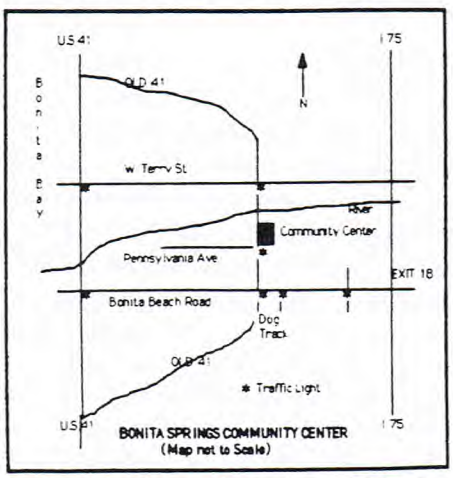
* Tuesday, Dec. 7, meeting of the Board of Directors at Ernie's restaurant, corner of U.S. Highway 41 and the Bonita Beach road in Bonita Springs; 6:30 p.m. Members welcome.

* Sunday, Dec. 12, annual picnic at the Strader residence, 27655 Kent Road, Bonita Springs, after 11 a.m. This will be the monthly meeting.

* Tuesday, Jan. 11, meeting of the Board of Directors at Ernie's restaurant, U.S. Highway 41 and the Bonita Beach road in Bonita Springs; 6:30 .

For information: on membership, Lynn Lee, 261-4939; finances, Jack Thompson, 261-3440, 597-2269; field activities, John Beriault, 261-0082, 434-0624; lab, Walt Buschelman, 775-0734; Art Lee, 261-4939; lab 774-8517.

HERE'S THE BONITA COMMUNITY CENTER



Sketch shows location of Bonita Springs building SWFAS now is

Want More Action? Fill in a Block

Following is the reverse side of SWFAS' current membership application blank. It has been suggested that present members might like to have the chance to use it to express their preferences in becoming more active in the organization.

If you wish, bring it to the next meeting or mail it to SWFAS at P.O. Box 9965, Naples, 33941.

❑ **Education committee.** Working with schools requesting speakers and programs.

❑ **Telephone committee.** Occasionally phoning a few members about schedule changes.

❑ **Lab work.** Identifying material for reports; you will be trained; experience is not needed.

❑ **Program committee.** Assisting with arrangements for speakers for meetings.

❑ **Public relations.** Assisting with public education events and media relations.

❑ **Sales.** SWFAS Tee shirts, books, are offered to members at monthly meetings.

❑ **Refreshments.** Helping with coffee, cookie, service at meetings.

❑ **Archives.** Filing clippings, lab notes, and reference materials.

❑ **Illustration.** Photography, sketching, for reports, newsletter.

❑ **Data management.** Putting data from lab analyses into tables and charts for reports; computer background needed.

❑ **Newsletter.** Assisting with publication of the monthly newsletter.

THE BOOK BEAT

Big Cypress Swamp

The swamps, marshes, wet prairies, hardwood hammocks, pinelands and mangrove swamps of Southwest Florida are the subject of a book by the editor of *Nature Photographer* magazine, Jeff Ripple. It is illustrated with 64 full-color photos. *Big Cypress Swamp and the Ten Thousand Islands,* University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, SC, 144 pp,

through gun smoke -- MUSEUM CROWDS VISIT SWFAS LAB

SWFAS netted some additional public attention the weekend of Nov. 6-7 by putting its folding exhibit on the front porch of the Craighead laboratory and opening its doors during the Collier County Museum's Old Florida Days.

The event is a project of Member David Southall's Boy Scout Explorers troop and featured demonstrations of traditional crafts such as spinning, weaving, lye-making, cooking on open pots, blacksmithing and much shooting of cannon and muzzle loaders.

Though the exhibits were on the side of museum grounds opposite the laboratory building, scores of people did look over the exhibit, and take folders pushing conservation of cultural resources and describing SWFAS.

Many visited with lab workers who were sorting material from the Strader site. Participating were Eleanore Young, Sue Morrow, John Dante, and Lynn and Art Lee.

MEANWHILE --

With its report on the contents of 99 bags of material from a site on Bonita Bay safely in the Miami office of the Archaeologcial and Historical Conservancy (see Page Four of this Newsletter), SWFAS' Craighead lab has resumed normal operations.

On the work tables are shell, bone and artifacts from the Strader site, excavated a couple years ago on the banks of the Imperial River at Bonita Springs. The dig sampled a major mound, and the material taken from it is expected to cover a long time period. The analysis promises to be exciting, and more workers can be used; the lab's open Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Saturday afternoons. Experience is not necessary; you'll get on-the-job training.

Terry Sachko and Walt Buschelman have devised new forms for the analysis, which will make it possible for computers to digest the numbers.

Weighing in

The line at SWFAS' two triple-beam scales has been long at times; no more. Ray Seguin has contributed a third and Linda S. Robinson another, as well as a

SWFAS COMPLETES BONITA ANALYSIS

But Formation's Mystery Remains

The Craighead lab has turned in its report on analysis of 99 bags of material from excavations at a horseshoe-shaped formation on Bonita Bay — but the mystery remains.

At question is the origin and purpose of an apparently pre-ceramic construction made up of two parallel arms about 240 meters long, oriented east-west and joined at the east end by a 150-meter north-south ridge.

The site has the official designation of 8LL717 but has been known over the years variously as the Boone's Farm site and the Bonita Bay Shell Works site. It was visited by Archaeologist Calvin Jones in 1981, was examined by Dr. David Dickel a couple years ago, and was plane-table mapped in detail by SWFAS under John Beriault.

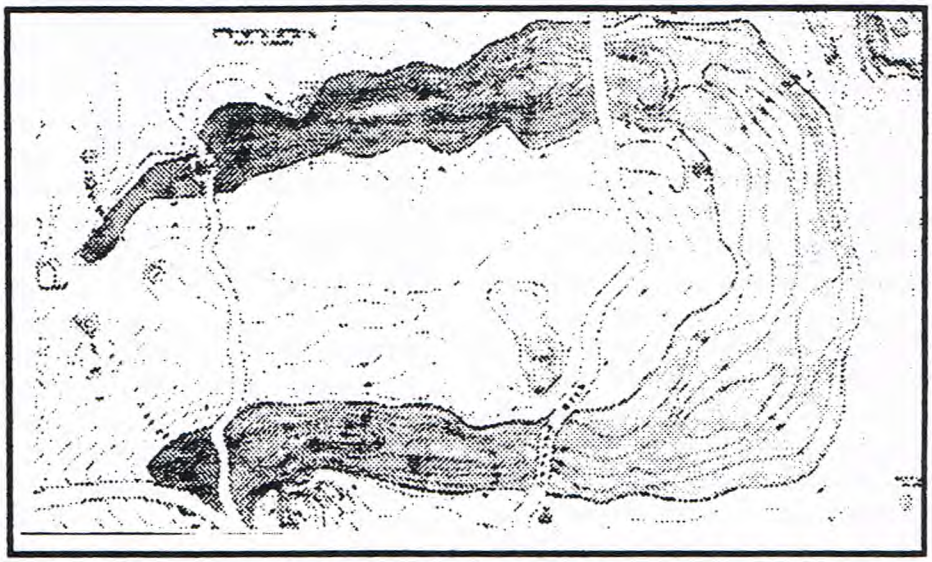
Bonita Bay Properties is preserving the bulk of the feature, but is constructing a road that will cross a portion of it. To salvage information that might be lost, it engaged the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy to examine the right of way. AHC turned over to the Craighead laboratory the job of examining the material, mostly shell, from the eight test pits dug by the field crew.

Specific objectives of the excavation were to learn whether it was constructed largely of shell; if it had been built in one episode, to verify that it is not a midden; and to test an assumption that it was preceramic in date.

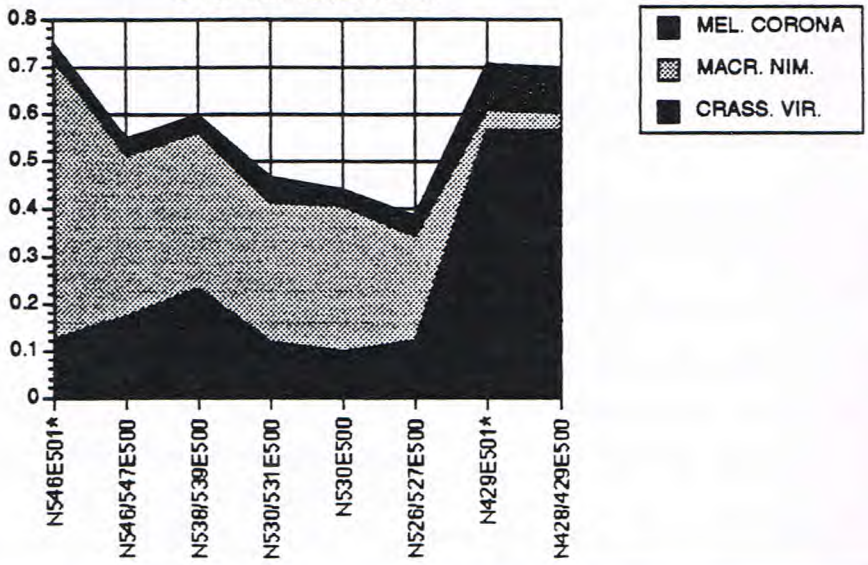
The SWFAS lab work did contribute to those objectives:

- Failure to find potsherds lent weight to its being of preceramic date;
- The small amount of bone found tended to verify its being something other than a kitchen midden;
- Use of different combinations of shell in construction of the north and south arms indicated construction at different time periods and possibly at times when nearby waters had differing saline content.

More than a score of SWFASers took part in the sorting, weighing and measuring, amping up hundreds of man-hours over a two-month period. The project's coordinating system was formulated by Walt Buschelman.



Horseshoe-shaped feature on Bonita Bay properties subject of scrutiny by Archaeological and Historical Conservancy. Map based on plane-table survey made by SWFAS under John Beriault.



SWFAS' analysis identified 36 species of shell, but oyster (*Crassostrea virginica),* Sunray Venus (Macrocallista nimbosa), crown conch (Melongena corona), and lightning whelk (Busycon contrarium) accounted for most of the bulk. While oyster was the major component in the south arm, Venus predominated in the north, suggesting construction at different periods.

The chart above illustrates the dramatic change in shell between the north and south sides. Figures at bottom are coordinates on a grid, each designating a separate test pit. The lower "N" numbers at the right are at the south end, the higher "N" numbers at left are at the north.

Thus more is known about composition of the feature, but its purpose -- ceremonial, social, political, economic -- remains a mystery.