NEWSLETTER

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Chapter of the FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, FL 33941

Arthur R. Lee, editor | **October, 1994** | Volume X, Number 6

Sixth Craighead Award Ceremony Set for November 16

SWFAS' sixth Craighead award will be made Wednesday, Nov. 16, the Society's usual meeting day, Steve Tutko, arrangements chair, announces.

The occasion will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a reception at the Ft. Myers Historical Museum, located at 2300 Peck street. At 7:30 the group will walk a short distance to the Lee county library, where the award will be made and a talk will be given by Barbara Purdy, Ph.D., of the Florida Museum of Natural History; she is the author of *Florida's Prehistoric Stone Technology,* and *The Art and Archaeology of Florida's Wetlands.*

After her talk, the group will return to the museum for dessert and coffee.

Former Craighead awardees have been invited as guests of the Society. They are Col. Don and Pat Randell; Dr. Robin and Jan Brown; William H. Marquardt; Art Lee, and Bonita Bay Properties.

A $5 charge will be made to cover cost of the (substantial) refreshments.

MARY BUSCHELMAN HEAD OF ELECTION COMMITTEE

President John Beriault has named Mary Buschelman chair of the committee to nominate candidates for 1995 office. Other members are Charlie Strader and Jack Thompson. All officers are up for election, since they serve one-year terms. Directors whose three-year terms expire this year are Mary and Walt Buschelman and Ray Seguin.

Those nominated for officers and directors will be announced at the November meeting and will be up for election at

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF COLLIER COUNTY SUBJECT OF TALK

Much of Area Surveyed By State Archaeologist

What was the relationship between the people who lived in shell-midden communities on the coast and those who peopled the interior strands and wetlands of what now is Collier county? Were they separate populations, or seasonal separations of the same group? Were the people of the interior branches of the coastal settlements?

In a talk on the importance of Collier county in Florida archaeology, these and similar questions will be explored with SWFAS members at their October meeting by Brent R. Weisman, Ph.D, director of the C.A.R.L. Archaeological Survey. (C.A.R.L. is an acronym for the state's Conservation and Recreation Lands Acquisition program). He is editor of *The Florida Anthropologist,* journal of the Florida Anthropological Society.

The talk, at the Bonita Springs Community Center, will start at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, following a social period.

Weisman is the author of *Like Beads on a String: A Culture History of the Seminole Indians in North Peninsular Florida* (University of Alabama Press, 1989); *Excavations on the Franciscan Frontier: Archaeology at the Fig Springs Mission* (1992, University of Florida Press); the forthcoming *Crystal River: A Ceremonial Site on the Florida Gulf Coast* (Florida Department of State), and articles in archaeological journals.

He is responsible for the inventory and evaluation of archaeological and his-

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MARCO EXCAVATION SET FOR OCT. 15-16

Volunteers Needed; Rendezvous at 8 a.m.

Excavation of a number of test pits at a site in the Barfield bay area of Marco island is set for Saturday and Sunday, October15 and 16, announces John Beriault, SWFAS president and field director.

Following a survey of the area by Beriault and Art Lee, during which the discovery was made, the site, called "Satin Leaf" for a plant there in abundance, was explored Sept. 24 by a SWFAS group which sank 12 post hole tests, all but three of which turned up food shell and tools. Material from the dig has been washed and stored at the Craighead lab.

The area in which the salvage excavation is to be done is due to be leveled as part of a construction project.

SWFAS members are encouraged to volunteer for the weekend salvage work; experience is not necessary. Participants will meet in the parking lot at the southeast corner of the junction of North Barfield drive and State Road 92 (San Marcos boulevard) in Marco at 8 a.m. Saturday the 15th. They should wear long trousers and sleeves and carry water, lunch, and mosquito repellant as well as trowels and other digging equipment.

Carpooling is urged, as parking space at the site is extremely limited.

Salvage of the site is urgent, since construction plans are well advanced. It

SWFAS DIRECTORATE

President John Beriault, first vice president P.W. Qualls, second vice president Linda S. Robinson, treasurer Jack Thompson, secretary Jo Ann Grey, membership secretary Lynn Lee. Directors are Walt and Mary Buschelman, Chuck Hostetler, Valerie Flanigan, Sue M. Long, Kimberly Polen, Ray Seguin, Annette Snapp, Reed Toomey, Steve Tutko, Dottie Thompson, and Keith Waterhouse.

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torical resources on state lands purchased through the program. In that capacity he has examined more than 500 archaeological sites statewide from Pensacola to the Keys, including many in Collier county.

He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Florida (1987), where he focused on Florida archaeology and the archaeology and history of the Florida Seminole Indians.

His talk to the SWFAS group will summarize early work of the area — Cushing at Marco Island, Stirling at Blue Hill, Moore's work at Chokoloskee and his shell tool study, and Goggin at Goodland and Gordon Pass. In the more modern era he will cover the Big Cypress survey, Bay West, Horr's Island, and his own recent survey of the Fakahatchee Strand, Golden Gates South (the former Picayune Strand, now known as Golden Gate State Forest) and Rookery Bay.

The speaker's emphasis will be on the unique and important contribution that archaeology in Collier county has made to the understanding of Florida archaeology in general, and several research topics which Collier county archaeology is particularly well-suited to address.

On the relationship between the shore-based populations and those of the interior, there is a question as to whether the sites were created by the same people undergoing seasonal divisions, or whether they were separate populations. If that is the case, what was their relationship, and what caused it (wet season vs. dry season game concentrations?)

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is expected that Archaic period cultural material will be found.

Those who participated in the September exploration were Beriault, Scott Brannon, Valerie Flanigan, Jo Ann Grey, Art and Lynn Lee, Jim and Sue Long, P. W. Qualls, Charlie and Gail Strader, Don

To Beat a Drum, Find a Roadkill

by Maureen W. Armour

"We can learn only by doing."

Thus Dr. Robin C. Brown started his presentation to a September SWFAS audience.

Though he confessed that much fascinating information is to be found in academic research papers, he discovered that to do justice to his subject — a description of how the state's aborigines lived, for his most recent book, *Florida's First People*, — he had to rely on doing what they did to get their food, tools, and transport.

With slides and a vivid narrative sparked by humor, Dr. Brown led his audience through the painstaking steps necessary to transform the raw stuff of nature into useful objects. Pottery began with digging clay from Hickey's creek, fabric with stripping fibers from palmetto and other leaves, paint with collecting sap from the strangler fig, and soft buckskin with retrieving fresh roadkill.

Roadkill — in this case woodchuck — also provided the drumhead that Dr. Brown stretched over a hollowed oak log and secured with cord plied from strips of inner tree bark. Producing soft leather from the body of an animal required skill, dogged hard work, and some surprising ingredients, such as the pound of pig brains Dr. Brown boiled and applied to a deerhide.

Crafting a dugout canoe from a 16-foot pine log presented the rare case when expedience overcame authenticity. Dr. Brown chose a chainsaw over shell tools for felling and trimming the dead pine he then hollowed out by burning. Three people burned and scraped for 14 days to produce the creek-worthy craft.

Artifacts made by Dr. Brown and his team were on display for touching and trying out after the program.

Book by Bense

Archaeology of the Southeastern United States, Paleoindian to World War I, by Judith A. Bense of the University of West Florida, Pensacola, has just been released by Academic Press. This text is the first of its kind in summarizing the prehistory of the region. 379 pp., illus-

BONE SEMINAR DRAWS STUDENTS

A score of archaeologists from much of south Florida spent Saturday, Oct. 8, learning how to identify bones from various types of animals, how to curate them, and how to maintain comparative collections without locking horns with the law.

In a day-long seminar at the Collier county museum and Craighead lab, Dr. Arlene Fradkin of the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville described the types of permits necessary to maintain collections of bone; taphonomy, the study of changes that occur in bone after death; distinction between bone types, and analysis of bone content of archaeological sites.

Much of the time was spent in small groups doing "hands on" work with material from the Craighead lab and specimens Dr. Fradkin had taken from the Gainesville museum.

Those registered included Marion Almy, Betty Anholt, Jean Belknap, John Beriault, Walt and Mary Buschelman, Sue Goldman, Jack Horner, Art and Lynn Lee, Jim Lord, Jim and Sue Long, Sue Metcalf, Maureen Murray, P. W. Qualls, Gloria Sajgo, Annette Snapp, Barbara Sumwalt, Barbara Tansey, Jack Thompson, Stephen Tutko, Charles and Jane Wilde.

SWFAS' SAJGO WINS STATE HONORS

Much of the planning and promotion that led to the just-released map, folder and report on Mound Key, through the Koreshan Unity Alliance, can be accredited to Gloria Sajgo.

That project is the latest of a series of accomplishments that have earned her state-wide honor.

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation at its annual meeting in Palm Beach presented her a Distingished Service certificate for her efforts in behalf of archaeological and historical projects in Lee county.

In its turn, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners proclaimed a Historic Preservation Day, recognizing Sajgo for her accomplishments.

She has served as a SWFAS director and is principal planner for Lee county. She has been of help in advising Collier preservation workers.

THE DATE BOOK

Craighead lab hours are 9-12 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-4 Saturdays. In Collier County Museum grounds, Airport road and U.S. 41, east Naples.

* Wednesday, October 12, meeting of the Board of Directors at the home of Charlie and Gail Strader, 27655 Kent road, Bonita Springs, 7 p.m. Members welcome.

* Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16, excavation of Satin Leaf site at Marco Island. Volunteers to meet at 8 a.m. daily at parking lot at S.E. corner North Barfield and Route 92 (San Marcos blvd.)..

* Wednesday, October 19, monthly meeting at Bonita Springs Community Center; gavel at 7:30 p.m., refreshments before.

* Saturday, Nov. 5, Time Sifters Archaeological Society of Sarasota to visit Craighead lab, Collier County Museum's Old Florida Days.

* Wednesday, Nov. 9, meeting of the Board of Directors at the home of Charlie and Gail Strader, 27655 Kent road, Bonita Springs; 7 p.m. Members welcome.

* Nov. 9-12, Southeastern and Midwest Archaeological Conferences, Lexington, KY. Advance registration $35, SEAC/MAC Committee, 101 American Bldg., U of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0100.

* Wednesday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m. at Ft. Myers Historical Museum, reception prior to Craighead Award ceremony.

For information: On membership, Lynn Lee at 261-4939; finances, Jack Thompson, 597-2269; field activities, John Beriault, 261-0082, 434-0624; program, Sue M. Long, 262-8371; lab, Walt Buschelman, 775-9734, Art Lee, 261-4939, lab, 774-8517.

Vandalism

So vicious are vandals who visit Mound Key they repeatedly tore up sur-

Island Study Confirms Spanish Presence; Gives New Perspective

From an oyster bar

Mound Key is man made, created on an oyster bar from shell emptied by canoeists who feasted on its bounty.

The recent investigation showed that people started living on the island a half century and more before the time of Christ. As the centuries passed, accumulated shell was formed into mounds, a great one, towering over 30 feet, for the chief and nobles, lower mounds and ridges for the lesser folk. (Food remains revealed that discrimination, and post molds confirmed aboriginal construction on the elevations.)

A major complex was created at the southeastern side of the central canal, another at its northwestern side. Each was made up of ridges, mounds and platforms which, in turn, supported minor mounds and ridges. Three water courts were located on a northwest/southeast line at the end of the central canal. Burial mounds were on the periphery.

With Power - Spanish

As the island grew, so did its political and social importance thanks to its strategic location, at the head of sheltered waterways leading to the Keys in the south, and to the Pineland/Charlotte harbor complex to the north and interior. In time it became the capital of the tribe known to the Spanish invaders as the Calusa, so powerful they exacted tribute from tribes across southern Florida; bringing them into the Christian fold was well up on the conquistadors' want list.

Spanish accounts tell of Ponce de León's being repulsed by Calusa war canoes in 1513, and of the establishment of a mission in 1567 and again in 1697, both efforts resulting in conflict and failure.

Presumption has been that the "Calos" the Spanish called the Calusa capital was Mound Key, and verification was one of the interests of the 1993-4 researchers.

The archaeologists believe that this is confirmed by its distance from Cuba, by its circular shape, and by the presence of Spanish artifacts of the proper eras: Santo domingo Blue on White majolica, and 18th century olive jar fragments, wrought iron nails, glass seed beads and a lead sinker.

At the turn of this century part of Mound key was farmed by, among others, members of a communal group, the Koreshan Unity, headquartered on the Estero river at whose mouth the island stands. As their organization diminished, its members donated their holdings on the island and part of their mainland acreage to the state as a park. Now, in the face of meager tax support, a citizens' group, the Koreshan Unity Alliance, Inc., has assumed greater responsibility for its preservation.

The Alliance obtained a $26,000 grant from the State Division of Historical Resources to give the island its first comprehensive survey and to produce a tourist brochure describing the site.

Under the guidance of Dr. William H. Marquardt of the Florida Museum of Natural History, Corbett Torrence and Sam Chapman of the museum last winter directed scores of volunteers who cleared survey lines, excavated a number of test pits, made controlled surface collections and cleaned and inventoried artifacts. Charles N. Weeks, Sr., ferried the workers at no charge; and several individuals made substantial financial contributions to permit completion of the work.

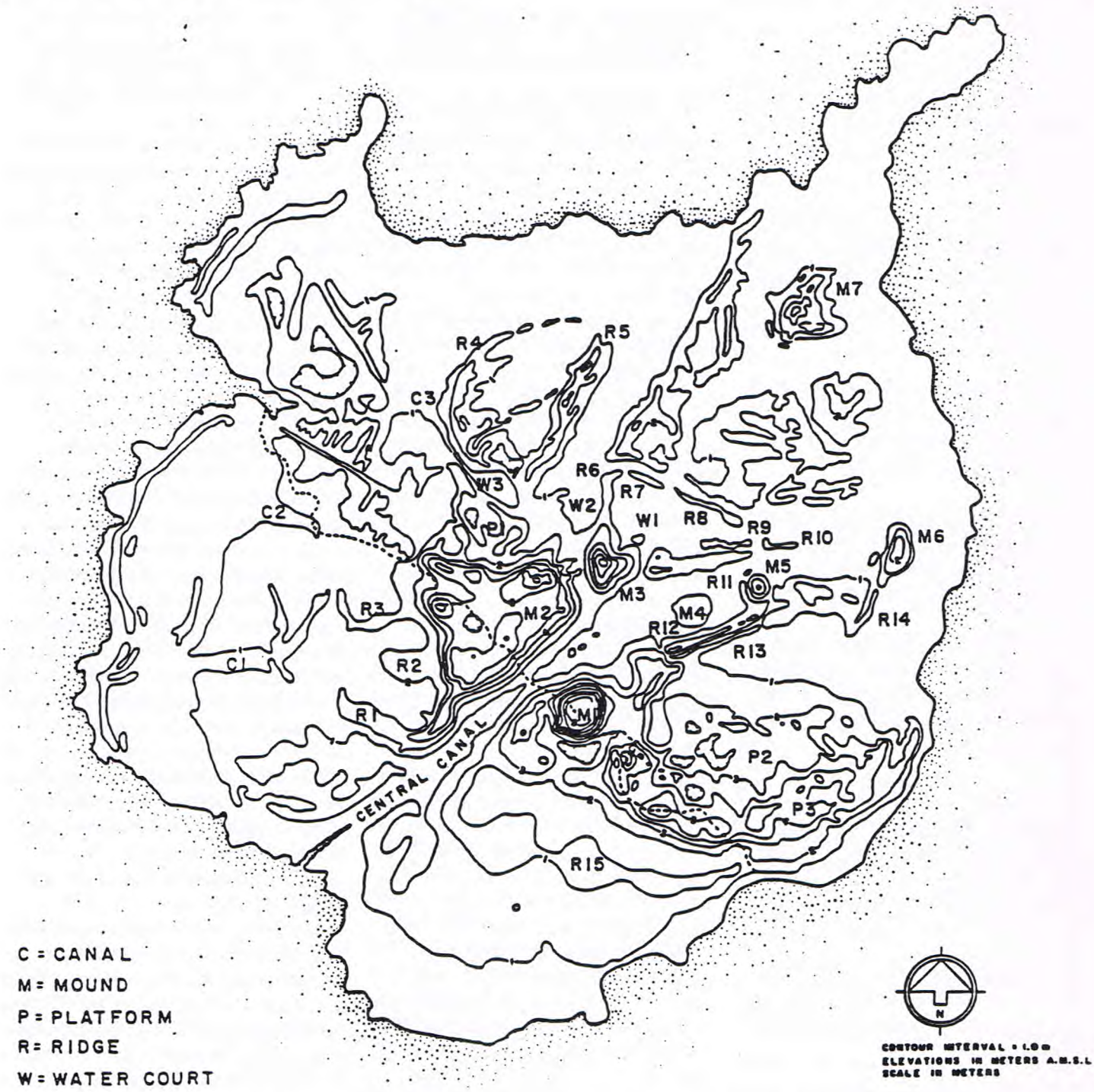
The Museum has now completed a 46-page report on its work at the site, a map defining its features, and a brochure for park visitors.

The archaeologists' final report notes: "Previous archaeological information . . . and the research conducted during this investigation all support the hypothesis that Mound Key was indeed Calos, the capital of the Calusa. If so, it is also the site of the fort/mission of San Antonio de Carlos, the first Jesuit mission built in this hemisphere to serve and convert the Indians."

Looting

The research team was struck by the extent to which Mound Key had been pillaged. Pothunters' pits dot the island, inspired by fictitious pirate tales; visitors collect illegal souvenirs; mining for road fill removed 10 per cent of its archaeo-

MOUND KEY



It's been mined for road fill and farmed; vandals have pockmarked its ridges and mounds; tropical rains have cut gullies where vegetation has been removed. Yet Mound key still stands at the mouth of the Estero river, at 30 feet the tallest part of Lee county — a monument to the Indian tribe that created it, basket full by basket full, from shell scraped up from kitchen middens.

Despite the abuse it has suffered from the greed and the naked will to destroy that possess some of humankind, the island still holds a store of history. This treasure is of modest appearance — bits of shell, potsherds, discarded food bones, bits of rusted nail — yet in it are the stories of a powerful tribe that fought to extinction a battle to hold to its religious beliefs and its land. Some of this tale has been teased out by students of the past, the most recent a team from the Florida Museum of Natural History, placed there last winter by the initiative of the Koreshan