NEWSLETTER

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Chapter of the FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101-1965

Arthur R. Lee, editor | **APRIL, 1997** | Volume XII, Number 12

FAS MIAMI MAY 8-11 MEETING

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Award Tops "Month" Events

Beriault Receives Scroll at Reception

SWFAS wrapped up its March Archaeology month with a warm thank you to founding president John Beriault for nearly two decades of effort in behalf of the organization and the area's archaeology. More than 50 gathered at the Southwest Florida Conservancy's Nature center in Naples the evening of March 31 to present him the organization's highest honor, the Craighead award, in a ceremony meticulously arranged by a committee chaired by Dottie Thompson and including Charlie Strader and Kimberly Polen.

The presention of the award — a calligraphed scroll imaginatively framed by Ray Seguin — followed a buffet arranged by Rose Somogyi, punch courtesy of President Steve Tutko; and to close the evening there were coffee and desserts.

In making the presentation, Strader referred to Beriault as a "Renaissance man", noting that his skills as a naturalist, historian, artist, sculptor, and conservator have been recognized by his having been named to such posts as presidencies of the Florida Anthropological Society, Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, SWFAS, and the Collier County Historical Society.

In accepting the award, Beriault noted the influence on his career played by his early association with Dr. Frank C.

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Fair, Island Tour, In Archaeology Event

by Betty Anholt

The Archaeology Fair at Koreshan State Park at Estero on Sunday, March 9, was blessed with beautiful weather for the tables displaying books, pamphlets, jewelry, and reproduction Calusa tools and artwork. Dick Workman demonstrated the musicality of shell horns, as well as basket weaving using palmetto root.

Speakers drew an often overflow crowd to the park's Art Hall, which also displayed several informational boards to be mounted at Mound Key

Dr. William Marquardt's keynote speech summarized some salient discoveries made since 1983 by his environmental archaeology approach to southwest Florida. This research has overturned conventional wisdom in four areas — showing the productivity of estuaries for the past 7000 years and the Indians' understanding of that environment, a long tradition of fish netting technology, a settled population, and sea level fluctuation evidence.

Dr. Robin Brown discussed Calusa cuisine and dietary needs, and illustrated how archaeologists reconstruct food use by examining middens. He pointed out the role of carbohydrates in population growth. He described food collection methods and his personal testing of them

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Shamanism On Agenda For April

Shamanism — Myths and Cosmovision of the Archaic Cultures of South America's Rain Forest is the subject of a talk by George J. Fery at SWFAS' April meeting Wednesday, April 16 at the Bonita Springs Community Center. Gavel will be at 7:30. preceded by a social period.

Fery is president of an international trade and transport consultant company, and executive vice president of an industrial equipment purchasing and leasing corporation, in Miami.

An interest in the history of pre-Columbian cultures led him18 years ago to the study of the art and cultures of the Intermediate Area of Panama. Subsequent field research into the rites and customs of remote Indian tribes of the rain forests of Columbia, Panama and Venezeuela gave him further insight into their pre-Columbian forebears. Fery writes and lectures regularly on Panama's history.

His discussion at the April meeting will cover contemporary archaic cultures as well as the geographical dispersion of symbols, archetypes and models found in South America and their commonality throughout the world.

Fery was raised in Morocco but received a college education in France; he moved to Miami in 1980.

He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Graves Museum of Archaeology and Natural History at Dania.

ABOUT SWFAS

The directorate: President Stephen Tutko, first vice president Reed Toomey; second vice president Kimberly Polen; treasurer Jack Thompson, secretary Betty Anholt, membership secretary Lynn Lee. Trustees are Linda Ballou, John Beriault, Valerie Flanigan, Wayne House, Sue M. Long, Gloria Sajgo, Charlie Strader, Don Taggart, Dottie Thompson and Mike Weinberg.

The committees: Field, Beriault, 261-0082, 434-0624; Hospitality, Pat Merchant, 262-1900, 598-3051; Events, Charlie Strader, 992-6133; Membership, Lynn Lee, 261-4939; Publicity, Dottie Thompson, 597-2269; Sales, Flanigan, 262-8394; Finances, Jack Thompson, 597-2269, 774-8517; Lab (775-9734), Art Lee, 261-4939, Walt Buschelman, 775-9734, Jack Thompson.

To join: Address your check to the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, P. O. Box 9965, Naples, 34101. Dues are: Individual $15, student $10, family and contributing $25. Questions? Lynn Lee (261-4939) has the answers.

THE DATE BOOK

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

* Wednesday, April 9, Board of Directors meeting at the Hampton Inn, corner of U.S. 41 and Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, starting at 7 p.m. Members welcome.

* Wednesday, April 16, monthly meeting at the Bonita Springs Community Center; gavel at 7:30 preceded by a social period.

* May 8-11, 50th annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Miami.

* Wednesday, May 14, Board of Directors meeting at the Hampton Inn, corner of U. S. 41 and Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, starting at 7 p.m. Members welcome.

* Wednesday, May 21, monthly meeting at the Bonita Springs Community Center; gavel at 7:30 p.m. preceded by a social period.

WELCOME TO SWFAS!

The Society has welcomed to membership Diane Hamilton, Ft.Myers Beach; Bill and Brenda Hamilton, Ft. Myers; and Hildegard and Helmut Nickel, Marco Island.

"Secret Mound" Makes Front Page

Visit to a "secret" undisturbed aboriginal burial mound on Pine Island was reported by editor Dave Holmes of the *Pine Island Eagle* for March 19.

Archaeologists William H. Marquardt and Karen Walker of the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville March 13 were shown the sand mound by area residents Ed Chapin, Peter Ordway, and Gloria and Andy Andrews in an expedition that involved canoes and a walk through a mangrove forest, Holmes reported. He described the mound as being 44 feet in diameter and four and one-half feet high.

According to Holmes, Marquardt does not intend to excavate the mound until after establishment of the Randell Research Center at Pineland. Land for the Center has been donated by Pat and the late Don Randell, but it is still largely unfunded.

Scientists Find City That Columbus Destroyed

Archaeologists exploring the Dominican Republic's East National Park believe that they have found the remains of a large Taino city destroyed by Christopher Columbus' expedition in 1515. Surrounding a sink hole at a site known as La Aleta were three plazas lined by five-foot-tall limestone blocks and kitchen areas. The sink hole apparently was used, as were Central American cenotes, as a place to make ceremonial offerings.

The find was announced in mid-March at a meeting of the Society for California archaeology.

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Craighead Sr., an early student of the Everglades, and saw SWFAS' current association with universities and local groups as holding promise for a continuation of SWFAS' academic and conservation interests.

A tour of Pine Island which included the Museum of the Islands, Galt island, and the site of the Randell Research Center at Pineland were among the month's activities. Posters and bookmarks provided by the Florida Anthropological Society and reading lists were distributed among schools and libraries, and SWFAS Craighead laboratory at the Collier County Museum held an open house.

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as possible foods, and reported engagingly on his successes and failures along the way.

Marion Gilliland reported on the Calusa "When history met them," and summarized much of the historical knowledge of "the first native Americans to be met by the Spanish and the last to be driven out." She described the Cushing Key Marco expedition, and noted that when she began her study, she had been impressed by Cushing's imagination. Now she is impressed by his insight.

Colonel Douglas Peck sketched out the possibility that Mayan, Taino, and Calusa Indians traveled by canoe across the Florida Straits and Gulf of Mexico. He referred to Columbus' log as summarized by Bartolome de Las Casas, Cuban Indian oral reports, and indications of Indian geographic knowledge. He suggests Caribbean ceiba trees may have provided canoes large enough for such crossings

Ave from Art and Lynn

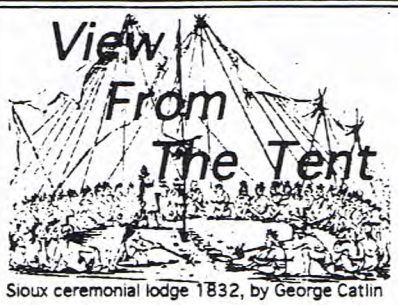
This is the last of a 10-year series of SWFAS *Newsletters* that Lynn and I — she as membership secretary and I as editor — have edited, published, and schlepped to the post office.

The *Newsletter* was started by Travis Doering, replacing secretary's notes prepared by Barbara Logie. Doerings's editorship lasted three years.

The ensuing decade saw many changes to SWFAS. Relationships with universities and other institutions with which we share interests have increased and deepened, membership has grown several fold and the output of papers based on our field work is well established.

The *Newsletter* has recorded these events and has tried to relate them to the larger archaeological world. In carrying out these functions Lynn and I have experienced nothing but good will, cooperation, and support for our efforts. We are grateful, and we offer SWFAS our best wishes for its future enterprises, in which we plan to remain participants.

Art and Lynn Lee



Sioux ceremonial lodge 1832, by George Catlin

MONTHS OF CELEBRATION

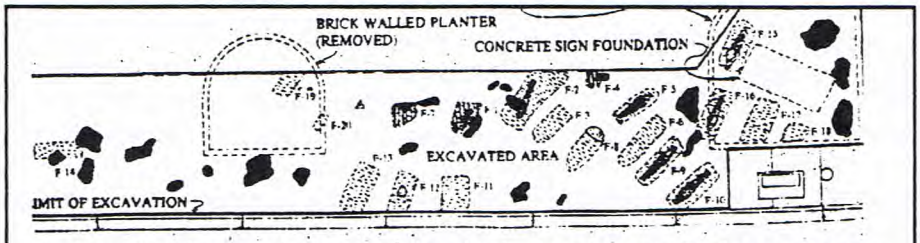
March, as we all know, was Archaeology month. There were many wonderful events and volunteerism by many people. I would like to thank everyone for participating, and if you were not able, hopefully next March, so mark your calendars early.

We continue the months of celebration with April, which was designated as Earthday for the first time on April 22, 1970. More than 20 million people took part that day making it the largest organized demonstration in history Earthday was the brainchild of Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson who came up with the idea in the wake of the Santa Barbara, California, oil spill. He wanted to organize a national teach-in concerning the environment. I hope everyone in their own way will participate in the many events, programs as well as doing something for the earth, such as recycling, planting native species, using less natural resources, or the most important gift you could give the earth would be to volunteer your time. Maybe we should follow in the footsteps of the Calusa and other ancient peoples by worshipping the earth and its plants and animals, not just living on the third planet in our relatively insignificant solar system in the Milky Way galaxy.

On a more domestic level, I would like to express thanks to Lynn and Art Lee for their years of help with the newsletter and membership. Speaking of which — If there are any budding editors or anyone with an unending desire to be in the newspaper business now is your chance. In the meantime, if you have any information for the newsletter please send it to my attention.

Steve Tuttle

Battles of Last Century Revived by Ft. Myers Dig



Portion of Fowler Street cemetery site plan is shown above; Fowler runs left to right just below lowest line of drawing. Shaded and coffin-shaped areas are burial pit stains; smaller are sub-adults; black blobs are limestone blocks.

Hints of the high drama and hardships associated with the Seminole wars were provided by the exhumation of human remains in connection with a road improvement project in Fort Myers in 1963, described by associates of Archaeological Consultants, Inc., in an article in the December issue of *The Florida Anthropologist*.

Suicide, wounds sustained "in action", diseases, and gunshot trauma figured in the associates' account of their monitoring of roadwork on Fowler and Second streets in connection with construction of the new Edison bridge, and there was mystery, too, in the firearm balls found with human remains. Authors are Joan Deming, Janet S. Matthews, Marion M. Almy, and Lee Hutchinson-Neff.

They had been called in because part of the improvement project likely would impinge on remains of a former U.S. military cemetery. At final count the archaeologists discovered 20 burial features, including the partial remains of 16 individuals and associated artifacts.

Fort Myers was first established as a depot called Fort Harvie in 1841 during the Second Seminole War and was operated about four months. In 1850 it was reactivated as Fort Myers during friction between settlers and the Seminole Indians, continuing in operation through the Third Seminole War, from 1855 to 1858. During the Civil War it was reopened by the Union army.

Downtown Fort Myers was first platted in the 1870s. Evidence of a cemetery was contained in an 1886 subdivision plat. After investigation, the archaeologists concluded that at least part of the old military cemetery was located near the intersection of Fowler and Second Streets.

Records revealed that there were three deaths at Fort Harvie in late 1841; causes were not recorded. In the years before the Third Seminole war, between 1850 and 1854, 22 deaths were recorded. The mortality rate jumped during the Third Seminole War, with 33 deaths recorded in 1855 and 1856, more than half caused by battle wounds. The next year, all deaths — 17 — were attributed to disease.

During the Civil war, almost four dozen soldiers lost their lives at Fort Myers. Other fatalities were among Seminoles held prisoner, and civilians who assembled at the fort.

Fort Myers in 1888 contracted for removal of the burials along Fowler street; the same year the Office of National Cemeteries removed the remains of 50 U.S. officers and soldiers, four children and one "Indian squaw" from the "Fort Myers Cemetery" to Fort Barrancas.

The Indian woman was identified as Polly, widow of a Creek Indian guide who reportedly led a force of artillery men from Fort Dallas (Miami) across the Everglades in February 1855. The couple earlier had helped the whites during the Second Seminole War, "thus earning the emnity of the Seminoles. During the Third Seminole War, the guide committed suicide."

Other mysteries were hinted at in the investigation. One coffin contained a musket ball and a lead shot from another burial was badly deformed; from its size (1 cm diameter) it is considered possibly to have come from a small personal pistol or a "Kentucky" long rifle. A larger ball had a battered end.

FAS Adds Meet Day

Friday: Caribbean; Saturday: Other Papers, Business

Acknowledging the fact that Cuba and other Caribbean islands are within canoe-reach of Florida, the host chapter, The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, is adding a day to the FAS annual meeting schedule for papers on that area.

The schedule now has registration at the headquarters Hyatt Regency Hotel of Miami beginning at noon Thursday, May 8 and a reception that evening; presentation of papers on Caribbean-basin subjects, meetings of the boards of directors of FAS and the Florida Archaeological Council, and a reception on Friday; reading of other papers, the FAS annual business meeting, and the awards banquet Saturday; and a chapter roundtable, a meeting of the new FAS board of directors, and tours on Sunday.

In observance of the 50th anniversary of the founding of FAS, the host chapter is editing a collection of individual chapter histories.

Artists have been invited to show their creations along with the customary displays of books.

The receptions will be held at the historical Museum of Southern Florida Thursday evening, and at the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School on Virginia Key Friday evening. The conducted tour Monday will explore archaeological sites in and near the Hyatt Regency Hotel and along the adjacent Miami river.

Barbara Tansey is president of the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, and Jim Lord is vice president.

As a service to those of its readers who may not now be members of the Florida Anthropological Society, or members who have lost their copies of the latest FAS Newsletter, the SWFAS Newsletter is reprinting here an advance registration form. One does not have to be a member to attend paper-reading sessions, though participation in business meetings is closed. It will be possible to join FAS at the registration desk.

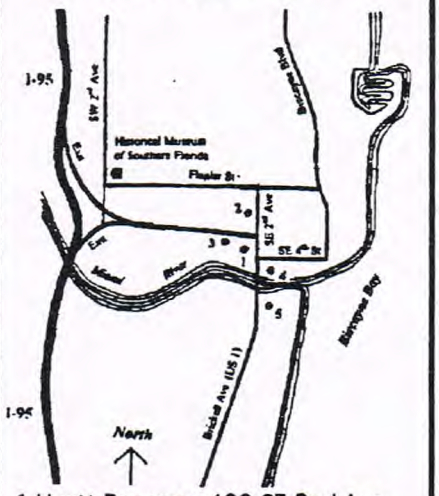
To Get to the Hyatt --

Following are directions to the annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 400 SE 2nd Avenue, from the west. (Phone 1-305-358-1234 for the concierge and road help):

From I-75: Take I-75 South to SR826 (Palmetto Expressway). Follow SR826 South to SR836 (Dolphin Expressway). Take SR 836 East to I-95. Take I-95 South to Exit No. 3 (Biscayne Blvd., Brickell Ave., US 1).This exit is from the LEFT lanes of I-95. Follow sign to Biscayne Blvd. Exit. At the first traffic signal turn Right onto SE 2nd Avenue. The hotel is on the right.

From US-41 (Tamiami Trail). Follow US 41 east; it becomes 8th St. S.E. (Calle Ocho) to SE 2nd Avenue which becomes Brickell Blvd.; turn left (north), crossing the river where it becomes Biscayne Blvd. Way. That road swings north and at SE 3rd St. turn left to SE 2nd Avenue. Turn left (south) onto it and you're practically at the hotel.

Where the Hotels Are



1. Hyatt Regency, 400 SE 2nd Ave.
2. Holiday Inn, 200 SE 2nd Ave.
3. Occidental Plaza, 100 SE 4th St.
4. DuPont Plaza, 300 Biscayne Blvd. Way (SE 4th St.)
5. Sheraton Biscayne Bay, 495 Brickell Ave

49TH FAS ANNUAL MEETING - REGISTRATION FORM

The 1997 Annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society will be held Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 8, 9, 10, 11, 1997 at the Hyatt Regency in Miami, Florida. The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, the host chapter, will handle everything except the hotel reservations, which you should arrange directly with your hotel. If you have any questions, write to: Beth Read, ASSF, FAS Meeting, 1489 South Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33130 or call (305)374-5699. Hotel registration deadline for discount is April 8.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION will be available until April 8, 1997, at $25.00 per person. After that date registration will be $30.00.

Name(s)_____

Address_____
City, State,
Zip_____
Telephone
(Work)_____(Home)_____
FAS
Chapter_____

_____Registrant(s) @ $_____each $_____
Saturday evening
____ Banquet Tickets @ $26.00 each $_____
_____ Chicken Wellington
_____ Sliced Sirloin
(mark your choice)

Total $_____

Make checks payable to Archaeological Society of Southern Florida; Mail to: Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, FAS Meeting; Attn Anna Flores, 9301 S.W. 92 Avenue #A307; Miami, FL 33176.