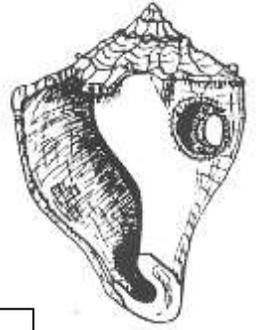


SWFAS

NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 2001



A Seminole Squaw and Papoose.

SWFAS HAS A WONDERFUL “FIRST MEETING” AT FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY!

Your acting editor is pleased to report that our Society had a great meeting experience at our new university! Our initial general meeting was a heavily-attended and outstanding success.

We were able to welcome not only our traditional membership, but also several students, educators, and administrators from Florida Gulf Coast University, and actually had to send out for more chairs! Drs. Susan Stans and Corbett Torrence acted as a

“bridge” and welcoming committee, and we were very pleased and excited to be involved with such a fine institution.

We may be meeting in a larger room, but, if this happens, someone will meet and guide you from Building AB3, Room 116. See you there!

Inside this Newsletter

- 1 We are Moving! Florida Gulf Coast University will be the new site of our General Meetings**
- 2 Save Green Space on Marco: Read Betsy Perdichizzi...**
- 3 Researching the Past Through Old Newspapers: Read Betsy Perdichizzi...**
- 4 Researching the Past Through Old Newspapers: Read Betsy Perdichizzi...**
- 5 Splashdown! Read (and welcome back!) Dr. Robert Gore...**

TRICK PHOTOGRAPY: Not all early photographs of Seminole Indians are naturalistic; many are contrived and not very respectful of these proud people. Even derogatory captions such as the use of “squaw” and “papoose” could be considered very “incorrect” by today’s standards. The value of this picture is in the costuming, which is authentic and the sentiments expressed, which have hopefully changed.

THE DATE BOOK

February 14th SWFAS Board Meeting – Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 7:00 PM

February 21st, 2001 General Meeting – HELD AT FGCU MAIN CAMPUS – TAKE EXITS 19 OR 20 EAST OF I-75

About SWFAS

The directorate: President Betsy Perdichizzi, first vice president Don Taggart, membership secretary Charlie Strader, treasurer Charlie Strader, recording secretary Jo Ann Grey, directors Steve Tutko, Sue Long, Dottie Thompson, Jo Ann Grey, Charles Dugan, Jack Thompson, Tom Franchino, John Beriault and Charlie Strader.

The committees: Field: Beriault, 434-0624; Hospitality: position open; Membership: Charlie Strader; Publicity: Dottie Thompson, 597-2269; Sales: position open; Finances, Jack Thompson 597-2269, 774-8517; Lab: (774-8517), Art Lee, 261-4939, Walt Buschelman, 775-9734, Jack Thompson, 597-2269.

To Join: Address your check to the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101. Dues are: Individual \$20, Individual Sustaining \$50.00, Family \$35, Student \$15.

Any questions, comments, contributions to the Newsletter: John G. Beriault, acting editor, P.O. Box 9074, Naples, FL 34101-9074 or Email to: JGBeriault@aol.com.

DUES ARE DUE!

Friends, it's that time of year again to remind you that SWFAS membership dues are due and payable January 1st, 2001. We're not like the phone or power company – can't remind you by turning off the utility. We hope you will see this

notice and sit right down and send us a check payable to the **Southwest Florida Archaeological Society**, P.O. Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101-9965. As a group we've had a positive impact in informing people, preserving our historic and prehistoric resources, and just plain enjoying each other's company and having a good time! Please help us by staying with us and sending in your dues. Thanks!

SAVE GREEN SPACE ON MARCO ISLAND

By Betsy Perdichizzi



PICTURE OF SHELL WALL ADDISON AND OSCEOLA COURT

Robert Carr, noted Archaeologist, Director of Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, of Miami Circle fame, urged residents of Florida to, "Save Green Space on Marco Island while it is still available."

Carr kicked off the Marco Island Historical

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Library Series, 2001, January 9th raising awareness of "the uniqueness" of Marco Island. He succeeded.

Carr asserts that, "Marco Island is one of the most extraordinary archaeological and historical places in the entire United States."

"You have two of the most important archaeological sites on vacant lots on the verge of development. Indian Hill and the Otter site located in South Caxambas are two of the most important sites that

still exist in southwest Florida. These sites need to be preserved as public green space." Carr also believes that Goodland needs to be protected since it is one of the last surviving historic fishing communities in Florida.

"People need to tell the leaders of the community, the county and the State, that these

unique sites must be preserved while there is still something here to preserve.” There are grants available to help acquire archaeological sites, he told Betsy Perdichizzi, following the meeting.

"Why is it?" questioned someone from the audience,

"That people on this island, spend thousands even millions of dollars, traveling the world to see and admire ancient historical and archaeological sites, and they cannot see what is here, around them?"

"Because," answered Carr, "Florida's archaeological sites are subtle. These sites are not Stonehenge or Pyramids. It is hidden history.



Miami Circle

After discovering the Miami Circle, that had been carved in the limestone bedrock almost 1800 years ago, Bob Carr led the drive to save the Miami Circle. The Circle is now preserved within a two-acre park. He said it was the citizens of Florida

who saved it. The Circle was discovered because the laws of Miami-Dade County require that key historic and archaeologically sensitive sites be subject to archaeological investigations. Collier County and the Village of Marco have similar laws that require investigations or archaeological monitoring of those sites. But the laws only go so far. Significant sites need to be preserved by acquisition. In the case of the Miami Circle the developer had invested about 12-15 million dollars to develop the property. Public sentiment was so strong about preserving the site that Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas led preservationists to successfully raise 26.75 million dollars to acquire the property as part of a settlement with the property owner. Much of this money was from offshore oil lease permit fees set aside by the State to acquire endangered lands.



**MIAMI
CIRCLE**

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Miami Circle

"Was it worth the Cost?"

"Yes", says Carr, "While it is true that there are a lot of important needs for public money, it is also true that the last surviving green space and unique historic sites are being lost every year to urban expansion across America. Miami has developed until there is no available green space left."

"What is a site worth?" Carr asked the large audience in attendance. "It is sometimes more than just a question of money. It is part of our community identity, and a sense of place. Now is the time to save Marco's last surviving sites. Experiencing history by visiting these special places is better than having someone like myself showing slides and presenting a lecture eulogy after the site has been destroyed."

"Sometimes all that is left are these slides and a few artifacts," he noted wryly. "Why preserve the best of these sites only in museums?"

Carr reports that the Prehistoric Indians who lived in the Marco and Naples area were not the Calusa, as generally believed. Archaeological

investigations indicate that these people manufactured different types of pottery than the Calusa. While the pottery of the Calusa is a plain ware, the pottery of Marco is beautifully incised wares. We need to know more about who these people were."

"The English and Spanish explorers prejudiced our views of these people. The Europeans didn't understand the culture they saw. They didn't value Indian people. It was all right to kill the Indians even if they converted to Christianity, because then their souls could be saved." By 1763, South Florida's Native people had become extinct as a culture.

Robert Carr is the former Director of Miami-Dade County Historical Preservation Division. He has been an archaeologist for the past 30 years having worked for the State of Florida as well as the National Park Service. He has a Master of Science degree from Florida State University. In his career he has directed work at numerous South Florida sites including the Cutler Fossil Site, the Cushing

Site in Marco, as well as the Miami Circle.

RESEARCHING THE PAST THROUGH OLD NEWSPAPERS

by Betsy Perdichizzi

I was browsing through historical clippings from old newsletters the other day and found some things that I would really like to read about in the article itself on microfilm at the main library in Naples.

Anyone interested in doing research on SW Florida has to go no further than the Collier County Library in Naples, Research Room. There you will find drawers full of old newspaper recorded on microfilm dating back to 1888, with microfilm machines to view it. The machines are free and the library assistants are helpful in loading the film onto the machine, if you need it. The machines will make copies of items for you to take home for only \$.25. Old newspaper articles, as well as magazine articles offer us a window into the world of yesteryear archaeology, school information, peoples, events and happenings.

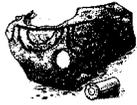
Here are some tantalizing excerpts you will find when you go browsing:

Fort Myers Press-April 30, 1891,

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"farmer Hall finds Indian relics, archaeology Hall's Island Fort Myers Press- April 25, 1895, "tourist finds Indian relics, wood in muck- Wilkins, Marco Fort Myers Press-February 30, 1896, "Cushing Indian Finds, Frank Hamilton Cushing," Marco Fort Myers Press-March 19, 1896, "Cushing on Marco, after Indian relics, archaeology, Marco Fort Myers Press March- 29, 1900, Prof. Moore, science, anthropology, P. Rassa studies Smithsonian, 1923, "field work arch. illus., mounds 11 pages Cushing, Moore, Hrdlicka" Smithsonian, 1928 archaeology, wood obj, illus., Calusa Indians, Cushing Marco Smithsonian, 1930, Fieldwork, Calusa Indians, arch. Mounds 7 illus. Naples Daily News-February 7, 1992 "archaeology, artifacts, Horr's Island, Michael Russo Other Items of Interest Fort Myers Press-June 4, 1896, "Interview with Gomez, Panther Key, home, wife, history, Panther Key. The 1900 Census publish Gomez, born 1776 in a port in France where his parents lived His occupation listed as fisherman (not pirate) His wife Sara, born 1830 in Florida is also listed. Fort Myers Press - March 10, 1898, "Shipwreck Collier Schooner Speedwell", Fort Myers Press-October 17, 1901, "County licensees list, 72 named, type of business, Ft Myers, Naples, Marco" Collier County New July 10,

1991, "history of clam industry,"
 E. S. Burnham
 <>



POTSHERDS AND

POTSHOTS... AN ONGOING
 SERIES BY ROBERT GORE

BIRDSHOT AND THE BEACHBALL. I.

By Dr. Robert H. Gore

Modern skywatchers in south Florida like the months of autumn and winter, August through January. That's because six major meteor showers occur - within this six-month time frame, with November having two notable showers within the first two weeks of the month. The entire subject of meteors, meteoroids and meteorites is rich with interesting facts and not a few potentialities. For example: What interest might these heavenly objects have for Floridan anthropologists? Or Floridan aborigines? The answer: perhaps quite a bit for both, as we shall see. [Table 1]

For background, let's start on the Yucatan peninsula. Approximately 65 million years

ago this still nascent, semi-submerged landmass in the Gulf of Mexico was subjected to an extraordinary extraterrestrial event. The happening began far out on the edge of our solar system where a large chunk of rock, believed to be between two and ten miles wide, moved in a broad elliptical orbit that periodically crossed that of earth. At some uncalculatable point in time the earth and the rock fulfilled the necessary gravitational, mathematical, and temporal conditions that, in turn, led to a final and ultimately fatal intersection of both of their orbits. Tracking in its ellipse the rock took dead aim on the third planet from the sun. Immutably bound by the cables of Newtonian physics the rock completed its final circuit and inter-section and, like some huge bowling ball trapped in a gravitational gutter, plunged inexorably toward earth.

Spiraling in from outer space the rock entered the atmosphere at a point high over the incipient Gulf of Mexico, and sizzled downward at speeds approaching 100,000 miles an hour. At this velocity it would traverse the entire envelope of the earth's atmosphere in about 30 seconds. At

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the same time, the rock's forward speed met the resistance first of the rarefied upper atmosphere and then the more dense lower layers, which quickly heated its surface to incandescence. Behind it, the rock's passage created a long hole-like vacuum through the increasingly dense air, into which the burning pieces of the rock's surface swirled away in a maelstrom of flaming gases and stony embers

TABLE 1

ANNUAL METEOR SHOWERS VISIBLE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Shower/(Constellation)	Date	Number/Hour	Comet Parent
Quadrantids (Quadrant)	January 3	30-110	Unknown
Lyrids (Lyra)	April 21	8-12	1861 I Thatcher
Eta Aquarids (Aquarius)	May 4	10-20	Halley's
Delta Aquarids (" ")	July 30	15-35	Unknown
Perseids (Perseus)	August 12	40-68	1862 III Swift-Tuttle
Draconids (Dragon)	October 9	50-200	Giacobini-Zinner**
Orionids (Orion)	October 21	15-30	Halley's
Taurids (Taurus)	November 4	8-12	Encke's
Leonids (Leo)	November 16	6-10	Tempel-Tuttle
Geminids (Gemini)	December 13	50-58	Asteroid named Phaeton
Ursids (Ursa Major)	December 22	ca. 10	Mechain-Tuttle

* Maximum falls may occur two days either side of indicated date except Delta Aquarids and Taurids for 15 days either side of date

** Draconid shower now believed to be defunct.

Data from: Friedlander, M. W., 1985. Astronomy, From Stonehenge to Quasars. Prentice-Hall, Inc. Englewood Cliffs, NJ; and O. R. Norton, 1994. Rocks From Space. Mountain Press Publishing Co., Missoula, MT.

called a "train." Hurling through the air at some 800 miles per minute, nearly 30 times the speed of sound, the flaming body slammed into the seaward edge of an emerging limestone peninsula in the southeastern Gulf of Mexico--a land mass later to be named Yucatan.

The impactor (now believed to be either a very large meteor or a small asteroid) and the earth's surface at the point of impact were immediately vaporized. This created a truly monstrous explosion that excavated by sheer force and down-falling ejecta a multi-rimmed crater nearly 120 miles in diameter (ca. 200 km), and fractured the underlying earth perhaps as much as 10 miles deep into the layered terrestrial and shallow-water limestones of the peninsula. The energy released is estimated to have equaled the combined explosion of 200 million one-megaton hydrogen bombs.

The total area of the three largest crater-rings measured approximately 59,000 square miles, slightly larger than the entire state of Florida. Tektites, small glassy tear-drop shaped globules produced by explosive fusion from the impactor and terrestrial sediments, rained down as far away as Haiti and Texas, and carpeted some places of the Caribbean seafloor. The impact is also hypothesized to have triggered earthquakes of magnitude 12 on the Richter Scale all around the Gulf of Mexico, and produced tsunamis (seismic sea waves) up to 400 feet high that washed ashore as far inland as present-day central Alabama and Mississippi. Slumped undersea deposits between Cuba and the Bahamas may have been another consequence--or, there may have

been a second impactor! In any case, recent measurements of the diameters of the deeply buried crater-rings, if correct, make the Yucatecan crater the largest known, surviving impact site on earth.

Sixty-five mega-millenia later a nation of war-loving Mayan Indians, devoted to blood-sacrifice and sun worship on the steep heights of their pyramidal temples (ironically built from that same Yucatan limestone), would name the place of impact Chicxulub (Chiksh-you-lub)--"Hole of the Devil." [Figure 1] Geologists call a feature like the Chicxulub Crater an astrobleme, a "star-blemish" produced by impact and crater-

formation from an extra-terrestrial body. Astroblemes are well-named, for they quite literally produce long-lasting blemishes on the face of the earth. They are often recognized by their distinctive circular outlines, suggesting impact craters much like those so familiar to moon-watchers. For example, in the Arizona desert a similar "star-scar," the Barringer Crater, is now an easily viewable and heavily visited tourist site called Canyon Diablo, or "Meteor Crater." The important difference between lunar and terran craters, however, is that the former have remained and

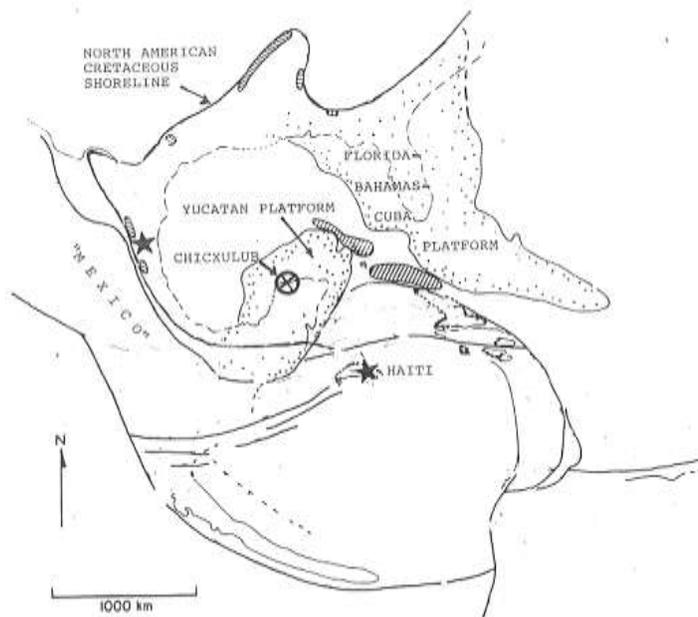


Figure 1. The Chicxulub Impactor site on the Yucatan Peninsula as it appeared in the Late Cretaceous. Note the distance and geographical relationship to the emerging Floridan peninsula. Cuba and the Bahamas Platform were still a part of the Florida Plateau, and the Straits of Florida did not yet exist. A second impactor may have landed in deeper water nearby (see text). After Hildebrand, A. R., et al., 1991. Chicxulub Crater: A Possible Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary Impact Crater on the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. *Geology*, vol. 19, pp. 867-871.

essentially unaltered for millions of years. On earth, the latter immediately begin to undergo weathering--the erosion caused by wind, rain, water, and soil

movements. Add alteration produced over thousands or hundreds of thousands of years by vegetation communities, and even once-prominent astroblemes can become indistinct. Thus, earthly craters (with some few exceptions, such as Canyon Diablo in the Arizona desert) usually become hidden in the surrounding topography and may not be recognized until satellite photography or topographical mapping reveals their presence.

But it's not all that easy. A complicating factor is that many "astroblemelike" depressions are not caused by extra-terrestrial impacts, but result instead from volcanic or hydrological activities. Crater Lake in Oregon, created when Mount Mazama's volcanic cone exploded and collapsed upon itself, is an example of the former. Deep Lake, a solution hole in Collier County, exemplifies the latter. So geologists look for other evidence than just a circular shape or depression. This includes fractured rocks and sediment layers caused by the velocity of the impactor, and the subsequent explosion at the surface layers, and the compression of the still deeper rocks underlying the entire putative impact site. One helpful indicator is that the impact often clearly fractures both the surface and underlying layers into patterns much like the shattered spider-web patterns seen in automobile glass when struck by

your son's baseball, or other projectiles.

Yet another type of geological evidence for impactors is more equivocal--discovery of anomalous masses of rock underneath more recently deposited strata. For example, very ancient pieces of rock, up to 4.5 billion years old (as dated by radioactive mineral content), and of specific mineral compositions that differ notably in mass and weight from the surrounding minerals, may be suspect. Such rocks, if buried deeply under the surface, may mark the site of an ancient impact, or if located more shallowly may underlie an existing crater. Fragments of "strange" rocks distributed about the impact site can provide additional evidence. Finding these types of fragments in an area where they would not normally be expected to occur, particularly if they are scattered or embedded in substantially less ancient strata (e.g. lime-stones), could be prima facie evidence that the area had received a celestial visitor at some far distant time.

What is the relationship of all of this explication to Floridan anthropology and archaeology? Well, for openers, some respected researchers have suggested that Lake Okeechobee may also be, or at least may overlie, an astrobleme. Second, several "shooting stars" have fallen onto Florida, and at least one is known to have fallen directly into the Lake. Third, these extra-terrestrial objects were held in high

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regard by at least some aboriginal peoples of Florida. We'll address all these issues in the coming months. Stay tuned . . . and watch the heavens.

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