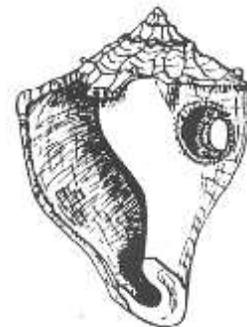


SWFAS

# NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 2001



**ENCHANTED FOREST OF BIG MUNSON KEY:** You might have thought those enchanted forests are only found in the movies, but look at those gumbo-limbos!

**“DA PLANE!, DA PLANE (TABLE)!” – WORKING ON FANTASY ISLAND IN THE MID-1980’S**

John Beriault ( a speaker well known to the editor) gave a slide

presentation at the November 21<sup>st</sup> SWFAS General meeting at FGCU. I’m tempted to extensively compliment the speaker, but because of my close relationship that might seem a little strange. I think I’ll stick to a general summation: the project presented was done in March, 1985 under the supervision of Robert S. Carr and the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy on Big Munson Key, in the Florida Keys at a Boy Scout Sea Camp and involved plane table mapping by our late colleague, Joe Long. A series of meter-square pits were dug across a beach berm ridge facing the Atlantic. The results

were the discovery of an extensive shore-front midden that was occupied almost exclusively during Glades III times. The project setting was a beautiful and unique area of beach ridges, rockland hammocks, and *salinas* or saltflats on a pristine Keys outer island. Those days are now in the ever-increasing distance, but they sure were fun while they were being lived!

## SWFAS PICNIC

Rebecca Harris, director of the Fort Myers Beach Cultural Museum and Environmental Learning Center (the Mound House) has very kindly agreed to host the SWFAS December Picnic at her facility. Plans are to meet here at 10:00 AM, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Details are still being worked out as to parking arrangements, transport to the facility and other details. Please come to the facility and you will be told where to park. A map and directions to the Mound House are posted in the back of this issue.

## Inside this Newsletter

- 1 We have Moved! Florida Gulf Coast University is the new site of our General Meetings**
- 2 Zachary Taylor’s Christmas Party – Part Two!** Read Dr. Robert Gore...
- 7 SWFAS GARAGE SALE DATE SET** See article this issue...

## THE DATE BOOK

**December 12<sup>th</sup> SWFAS  
Board Meeting** – Hampton Inn,  
Bonita Springs, 7:00 PM

**December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001 SWFAS  
December Picnic held at The  
Mound House, Fort Myers  
Beach 10:00 AM**

(see map this Issue)

### 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, Charlie Strader and Dr Michael McDonald.

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](mailto:JGBeriault@aol.com).



## POTSHERDS AND POTSHOTS... AN ONGOING SERIES BY ROBERT GORE

COLONEL ZACHARY  
TAYLOR'S YULETIDE  
PARTY, 1837. II.

DAY 6: 25 December, 1837.

Christmas Day dawned bright and clear, with the crisp touch of coolness that glorifies early winter mornings in south Florida. The mosquitoes, for the most part, had departed for the season. Numerous small campfires flamed on the high ground among the cypress trees, warming trail biscuit and jerky, searing bacon and salt pork, and boiling coffee made with swamp water. But it was no time for Season's Greetings. Other men, resolute and with much less than peace on earth on their minds, were already up, in position, and waiting.

In all too short a time the bugler blew assembly, the command "Saddle up!" was given to the mounted infantry, and the busy action of breaking camp got underway. The last hardtack, boiled bacon, and beans were hastily

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eaten, gulped down with hot but rank-smelling black coffee. Weapons were checked, flints and caps adjusted on the muskets, paper-wrapped cartridges lined up in leather pouches, powder shaken in the flasks to ensure dryness, and small bags of lead balls placed on belts in readiness. Moving quickly through the still drowsy men the sergeants and other non-coms harangued them to hurry up, in the manner inimitable to NCO's since the time of Alexander's armies. Squads were ordered to fall in, and companies were assembled. Grumbling and grouching in Cracker English, Irish brogue, and guttural German, the foot soldiers broke camp.

At the same time the mounted infantry checked cinchstraps, bridles and leggings one last time and then climbed aboard horses already dead-tired and unsteady from six days of exhausting travel through haunch-deep water, log jammed swamps, reed-choked marshes, and saw-toothed pine and palmetto lands--the perpetually ambient flora of the Kissimmee 'Basin. Far up at the head of the column the signal was given to move out, and was passed back from company to company a.11 clown the line.. Slowly, like a great, lethargic blue, brown, white, and gray snake Colonel Zachary Taylor's troops moved out of the cypress dome and onto the adjacent wet prairie.

It was a reduced force that took up the march. Owing to sickness, injury, and desertion, many of Colonel Taylor's companies may have been drawn down as much as 50% in strength, and were probably numerically equivalent to platoons in today's Army. Accurate counts are not available but the 1st Infantry may have contained a total of about 173 men, the 4th about 160, and the 6th about 175 men. The Missouri Volunteers and Morgan's Spies added another 196 or so, for an approximate total of 704 fighting men. Another hundred made up the commissary (cooks), orderlies, teamsters, and other support personnel. Zachary Taylor estimated his original forces at about 1,200 men when he left Tampa, of which some 800 were "regular army," 250 were civilian militia, and about 150 were Indian scouts. His command had thus undergone an overall reduction of more than 40% between Tampa and the time he left Fort Basinger. Bad enough when no one was shooting at you--but rather unsettling if the battle became joined. It would soon get worse.

Three trudging hours and five long wet miles later the column approached another large cypress swamp. The order to halt was given. Guidons were lifted high, weapons cocked and raised to the ready, and the regular soldiers dispersed quickly and professionally into their now familiar order of battle. Moving cautiously forward they entered the swamp. The aromas of burning wood and cooking fires permeated the

warming mid-morning air and mixed with another odor--that of unpreserved meat, incompletely smoked or dried, and now beginning to rot. Coming up to a clearing the troops saw evidence of large-scale habitation. Before them lay a camp that must have contained several hundred Indians, who now had all melted away into the surrounding deep-shadowed trees. Indians who had obviously left in haste, their cooking fires still burning, their food lying unconsumed or unpreserved. The clearing was otherwise completely quiet except for the petulant whine of flies circling over the cooling meals and decaying meat.

Maintaining their skirmish lines the sergeants ordered the troops to continue moving through the swamp. Above, the only sound was the repetitive taunting cry of a Red-shouldered Hawk, echoing through the stately green and gray trees. Below was only the slow, deliberate sloshing of water cascading before the wading companies of infantry, a quiet counterpoint against the nervous plunking, splashing, and huffing of the horses. Just before noon the leading element of the column emerged from the swamp and reined in along the scrubby brush-entangled ecotone that ringed the cypress dome.

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Ahead lay a large open prairie, stretching away toward the horizon, and shimmering slightly in the pre-noon heat.

It was 11 o'clock in the morning, Christmas Day, 1837. The men stared. Then someone snorted a short laugh. Another loudly spit a wad of tobacco juice in obvious relief. Before them, in one of the macabre illusions that pervade and persist in wartime, the troopers saw a bucolic scene of total serenity. Several hundred long-horned, rangy cattle, tails switching from side to side, browsed contentedly on the wiry prairie grass, occasionally plodding languidly a short distance, and then stopping to graze again. Others reclined in small groups, serenely chewing their cud. The nearer animals raised up their heads, rapidly flicking their ears, and gazed in vacant-eyed curiosity at the men and horses that had suddenly appeared before them. Interspersed among the cattle another 100 or so small Indian horses, termed ponies, browsed on the yellow coneflowers that speckled the prairie. The wind sighed quietly, riffling the tops of the grass and setting the flowers nodding toward a distant hammock. An army horse snuffled and stamped at a nearby cow. Farther away one of the cattle mooed quietly.

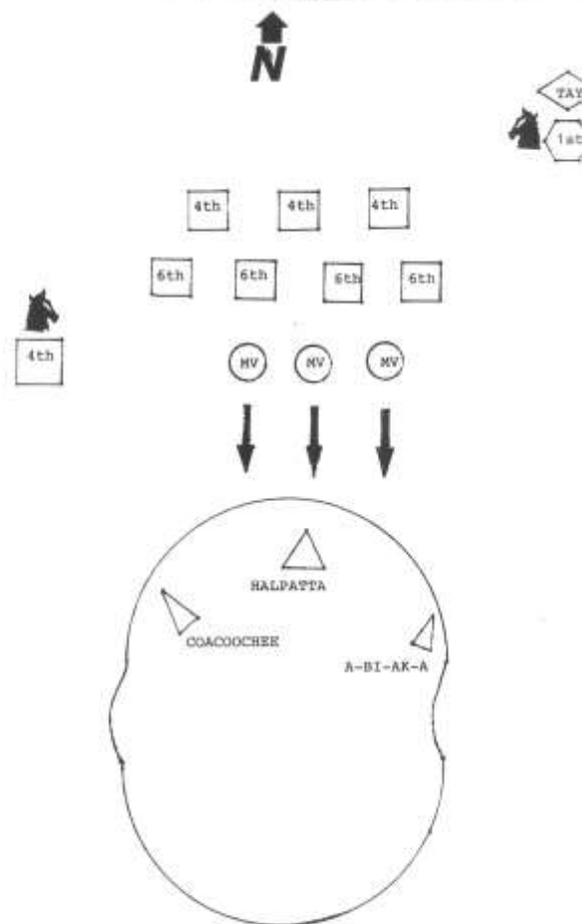
A sudden movement broke the peace-on-earth enchantment of the scene. Off to the left, a young

Indian herdsman, caught by surprise, flashed from the sawgrass like a frightened quail and tried to run away. It was a foolish and useless attempt. A Missouri Volunteer, giving a whoop, galloped easily after him, running the boy down. As he jerked his horse to a halt the Volunteer began to curse loudly at the young man. Turning over from where he fell, the warrior looked up at the white horseman and into the long barrel of a cocked Missouri flintlock. Rising slowly to his feet the Seminole cast his own rifle aside and held his arms away from his body, offering no further resistance. Brought quickly before Colonel Taylor and a Delaware Indian translator, the young Seminole was given a choice--tell where his people were, or be instantly hung like a dog. Looking at his gathering enemies the young warrior regained some courage. If he was to die now, it would be as a man, not an old woman watching COWS. The question was repeated more slowly and menacingly: Where-were-the-rest-of-his-people? Drawing himself up and pointing to a large thick hammock about a mile away and to the right, the young brave looked Zachary Taylor in the eye and coldly stated that if the "Ishte-hadkes" wished to know where his people were . . . they were there. And they were ready for battle.

Zachary Taylor had wanted information, and he got it--more perhaps than he might have wished. The young captive, now

loquaciously brave, bragged that he was a brother-in-law of John Cowayo. This was a Seminole mispronunciation of the Spanish word "caballo," meaning "horse," and referred to John Caballo. Cowayo, better known to the whites as "Gopher John," was a Negro-

Augustine earlier in 1837. Cowayo was now with the Seminoles and Mikasukis in the hammock. However, the willingness with which the young Indian talked to, and taunted, the soldiers suggests that he was acting as bait for the hammock trap



Seminole half-breed interpreter who had been imprisoned and then escaped with Coacoochee from Fort Marion (Castillo de San Marcos) in St.

**FIGURE 2:**  
APPROXIMATE ORDER OF BATTLE,  
LAKE OKEECHOBEE, 1200-1230  
HOURS, DECEMBER 25, 1837.  
TRIANGLES: INDIANS  
CIRCLES: MILITIA  
SQUARES: U. S. ARMY  
All Locations and Compass Directions  
Approximate

toward which the soldiers were riding. If so, Colonel Zachary Taylor either seriously misread, or foolishly dismissed, that possibility. Instead, he opted to step forcefully on the trip lever, a decision and a result that would very shortly prove disastrous, but enshrine his name in U. S. Military History, and eventually put him on the road to the Presidency of the United States.

A mile away, occupying the central front of the hammock, Halpatta Tustenuggee heard the description of the boy's capture from some of his warriors stationed high in the oak trees. He already knew the blue-coats were coming--had he not avoided meeting the man called Taylor Just two days earlier? Moreover, their noisy marching, and their sputtering and smoky cooking fires, made it easy to follow the army's progress day or night. He and his 120 warriors planned on taking many scalps this day.

Halpatta Tustenuggee had planned long and well for this battle. The hammock front was partially encircled by a large expanse of sawgrass, filled with water, and broad enough and thick enough that it would not only prevent horses from coming through but would greatly hinder men on foot as well. Wading through water and struggling through the grass that cut like a million tiny knives the blue-coats would be very tired when they reached the hammock. Even better, the sawgrass would act as an

instant alarm--no one could come through that morass without making noise. Best of all, any progress would be easily read by his snipers who had tied themselves onto the upper branches in the trees. It was control of field-of-fire at its best.

Should any blue-coats gain the high ground, a second strategy would be employed, one bolstered by his compatriots. To his right stood A-bi-ak-a Hadjo's Mikasukis, 180 strong. To his left was Coacoochee and 80 of his warriors. Scattered throughout were several Negroes, none of whom had much affection for white men. Halpatta Tustenuggee's warriors would fire, then give way--fire, then give way--drawing the soldiers ever deeper into the hammock where they could then be killed by A-bi-ak-a's and Coacoochee's men at leisure. And, just to add an additionally and devilishly deadly enticement, Halpatta Tustenuggee had ordered pathways leading toward the hammock to be cut through parts of the saw-grass ramparts.

Halpatta Tustenuggee could speak limited English but could not read. And certainly he had never heard of Karl von Clausewitz, the famous Prussian general whose three-volume study entitled Vom Krieg ("On

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War"), published In 1833, described in detail just what the Seminole chieftain planned to do. The military term was enfilade: "a condition permitting the raking with gunfire of an objective in a lengthwise direction." It was most murderously effective against frontal assaults where the defenders also controlled the lateral approaches. His enemy, Zachary Taylor, was of the old school, and had previously employed frontal assaults throughout his career. Whether he had ever read von Clausewitz remains moot.

From where he stood, Halpatta Tustenuggee also knew that retreat would not be difficult if, for some reason, the white soldiers were able to take the hammock. Behind him lay the open beaches of Wewa-THlocko, what A-bi-ak-a and his Mikasukis called Okee-cho-bee, and the many paths to Pah-hai-okee beyond. All in all it was a good strategy, made with good medicine.

Colonel Zachary Taylor raised himself up in the stirrups of his saddle to get a better view of the distant hammock. Except for the creaking of his saddle leather, and the soft sospiri of the prairie wind, there was no other sound. Somewhere in the distance, It might have been toward the hammock, or perhaps farther out on the prairie, the tumbling trill of a meadowlark was carried on the wind. Or at least it seemed to have

**Re: Sunday, Dec 9th,  
SWFAS picnic, 10AM -  
2PM**

We again want to thank Rebecca Harris, Director of the Mound House, (and the City of FMB), for the invitation to use the facilities. The historic house and prehistoric aboriginal shell mound property is an excellent location for a waterside picnic and we look forward to a fun day of socializing and learning.

There is a \$5.00 per person donation asked for attendance. For the donation, you are welcome to participate in the guided tours of the house and grounds and SWFAS will provide soda drinks, dessert and service (plates, utensils, napkins).

The picnic is a "potluck" affair. So we are asking for all to bring a big portion of finger-food, salad or entree. Last year's similar arrangement was a great success with many delicious dishes. With SWFAS providing the dessert (cake), we should have a great variety of good food.

Please bring your own chairs or other for seating. Also, if a sunny day - don't forget your sunscreen and although there is usually a breeze due to the waterfront location, be prepared for a few mosquitoes. Assuming good weather, we expect about 50 people to attend. Family and

been a meadowlark. Zachary Taylor reseated himself and looked back at his column now awaiting his orders in the midday sun. Now was the moment of truth, of determination--and of destiny. Colonel Zachary Taylor and the United States Army, and two civilian militias were about to put Lake Okeechobee firmly and finally on the map of Florida.

To Zachary Taylor's way of thinking, the hammock was simply an open fortress, a cypress, hardwood, and cabbage palm-choked redoubt. He had the men in numbers, and he had what seemed to be reliable intelligence about the numbers of Indians within it. The odds, at least 2:1 and perhaps as much as 3:1 seemed favorable to his cause. Taylor therefore decided to launch a divided frontal assault. Two skirmish lines were set up. The irregular troops of Gentry's Missouri Volunteers, Morgan's Spies, and their accompanying Delawares and Shawnees fanned out and formed the first or forward order. The U.S. Infantry's 4th and 6th Regiments under Lieutenant Colonels William S. Foster and Alexander R. Thompson formed the second order. The Volunteers and Spies were to move forward into the hammock and take and return first fire. If they became too "hard pressed" they were to fall back and reorganize behind the regular troops of the 4th and 6th Infantry Regiments. The Infantry would either back up the irregulars, or if they faltered, assume the point and lead them forward. Two mounted companies of the 4th

Infantry were to participate alongside, as needed. The 1st Infantry Regiment (Taylor's own), under Lieutenant Colonel William Davenport, was held in mounted reserve outside the approach to the hammock. It was almost a classic text-book frontal assault except for one thing--the Indians hadn't read that lesson. And they had already developed their own text-book on warfare, written in white man's blood.

The previous evening several of Taylor's most senior officers had remonstrated against Taylor's plan, noting that other than purported numbers of Indians in the hammock, nothing was known of their disposition or defensive strategy. Taylor listened politely then dismissed their concerns. Instead, as he would write in his report of the battle three days after the New Year, 1838, he quickly made his decision--brief, precise, succinct, and fatal:

"At this place the final disposition was made to attack [the Indians] in two lines. . ."

Now, it was nearly High Noon, Christmas Day, 1837.  
[TO BE CONTINUED]

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friends are more than welcome. There will be a sign-up sheet available at the next monthly meeting to help coordinate dishes and you are encouraged to pre-register your attendance to assist in our planning.

As a side note, the Ft. Myers Holiday Boat parade is also scheduled for the evening/night of Dec 9th.

The guided tour schedules and future parking arrangements will be announced later.

**SWFAS GARAGE SALE PLANNED FOR JANUARY 19TH**

At the last SWFAS Board meeting, plans were formalized to hold the SWFAS Garage sale on a Saturday January at the Bonita Springs Community Center (site of our old meeting-place). The following information is supplied by Charlie Strader, our treasurer and the man who has consented to help arrange the accommodations for the sale. He writes:

John

Here is some slightly revised info from previous rummage sale that you can use for the next newsletter. I guess for now the important thing is to ask membership to save and bring items. You may want to remind all that this is our main and really only fund raising function and it save us having to wash cars or dogs to raise funds. In addition to household items, we also hope to raise funds with snacks, so

people could consider providing food items in lieu of other, to help contribute. The could even consider asking friends, neighbors, local business, etc, for donation goods.

Best,  
Charlie  
-----

SWFAS Rummage Sale & Silent Auction  
Saturday, Mid January (date to be confirmed)  
Bonita Springs Community Center

ITEM DONORS: Please try to have your donated saleable goods at the Center (where we used to hold monthly meetings). All items should be marked ahead of time with your suggested sale price. If you cannot bring an item of value yourself because of some conflict, please contact other SWFAS members to find someone that can store and bring it for you. Remember that this is really our only fund-raising function and without donated items there will be no funds to raise!

Volunteer Request List: Volunteers are needed in several areas. For any areas that you are willing to volunteer for, please contact Sue Long at 262-8371 or Charlie Strader at 992-9660 ahead of time in order to coordinate times and

activities.

1. General Volunteers: Needed in order to get things underway. We need people to:
  - A. Setup: Set up tables and display items.
  - B. Pricers: Mark prices on items. (We are expecting some donations to have items unmarked, so this is a necessary and time demanding requirement for the sale.)
  - C. Security: General order / overseeing. Also general assistance, as help is always needed for various little tasks. \* BRING: Pens (felt tips are best) to mark items with. (Stick-on dots will be provided along with SWFAS Volunteer names tags). Also, start saving and bring plastic bags (such as from the grocery store). It's helpful to wear clothes with pockets to keep your pen and stickers in.
2. Advertising Volunteers:
  - A. Signs: To make temporary road signs for the day of the sale. Freestanding Sale Signs will need to be posted (and later removed) at multiple roadways around Bonita.
  - B. Word of mouth: This is easy but important. Please mention to as many people (and even business's that could donate items or services) as possible that a nonprofit organization you are a member of is having a benefit sale and need BOTH items donated (which are tax deductible) and also buyers to come. Notices of the sale can be posted or announced at other organization's

meetings, newsletters, businesses, neighborhoods, etc.

3. Refreshments & Hospitality: We are also hoping to raise funds with the sale of drinks and snacks. Please contact Jeanne Sanders at 446-4229 or Charlie Strader at 992-9660 ahead of time in order to coordinate.

A. We need donated snacks (cookies, cakes, pies, drinks, etc.) packaged in individual portions to sell.

B. We need volunteers to sell such (from the kitchen area of the meeting room) during the event.

5. Transport: We may need volunteers to transport donated items and furniture which have been donated and stored in south Bonita on the day sale. Trucks and vans are best but those with cars can also help. Call Charlie Strader at 992-6133 to volunteer to transport or to mark items and coordinate.

Notes: If you have expensive items such as antiques, art, etc., we can place them in the Silent Auction area which will allow for a greater opportunity of increased funding with better chances of the valuable items bringing higher prices.

OLD FLORIDA FESTIVAL

The Collier County Museum held an Old Florida Festival on November 2, 3 and 4. Our Craighead Lab was manned by Art Lee, Jean Belknap. Walt Bushelman, Jack

Thompson, Betsy Mc  
Carthy and Sue and  
Jim Long.

Total attendance included 3,000 to 4,000 school children on the first day and about 2,500 others each the next two days. We saw a large number of the attendees, showed how we study prehistory, signed up one volunteer and passed put many SWFAS applications.

There should be something about the dues being due on January 1. Exception is those who joined after September 1. Pay at November meeting, December picnic or to our P.O. Box.

. For further information call 941-597-2269.

*DIRECTIONS TO THE FORT MYERS BEACH CULTURAL MUSEUM AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER (THE MOUND HOUSE)*

The Mound House is the oldest house on Estero Island and is located on a prehistoric Indian shell mound directly

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facing Estero Bay. We look forward to your visit!

From the South  
I-75 Exit 18 West on Bonita Beach Road. Follow road for 12 miles to Estero Island (Town of Fort Myers Beach). Once on Estero Island, the road becomes Estero Blvd., continue north approximately 4.5 miles. At Beach Access 22 you will be at Connecticut Street, turn right and proceed to the end of the street. The entrance is the last driveway on the left.

From the North  
I-75 Exit 21 west on Daniels Parkway. Follow Daniels/Cypress Lake until it ends at McGregor (the name changes to Cypress Lake at US 41). Turn left on McGregor and continue until road becomes San Carlos. Continue on San Carlos over the Matanzas Sky Bridge merging left onto Estero Blvd. Travel south along Estero Blvd. approximately 2.5 miles to Connecticut (Beach Access 22). Turn left on Connecticut Street and proceed to the end of the street. The entrance is the last driveway on the left.



*SWFAS 2002  
Nominations  
for Officers &  
Trustees*

**Nominating committee:**

Chair: Charlie Strader, Sue Long, Don Taggart

- General membership to vote at January's monthly meeting, which serves as SWFAS annual business meeting.

- Nominations from the floor can still be accepted.

**OFFICERS:**

President: Betsy Perdichizzi

1st VP: Tom Franchino

2nd VP: Corbett Torrence

Recording Secretary: Jo Ann Grey

Membership Sec: Charlie Strader

Treasurer: Charlie Strader

**TRUSTEES:**

2002 Last year of 3 year term:

- Steve Tutko
- Sue Long
- Dottie Thompson
- Jack Thompson

2002 Second year of 3 year term:

- John Beriault
- Mike McDonald

2002 First year of 3 year term:

- Don Taggart
- Theresa (Torrence) Schober
- Dr. Susan Stans
- Charlie Dugan (have not contacted yet)

**New Cultural Resource Management Program at FGCU**

Florida Gulf Coast University is pleased to announce the creation of a new program in the College of Arts & Sciences focusing on Cultural Resource Management and archaeological and historic education in southwest Florida. Co-directed by Corbett Torrence and Theresa Schober, who also serve as Visiting Faculty at FGCU, the program provides public services in archaeological

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assessment and education, and supports anthropological and interdisciplinary education at FGCU. The university currently has an undergraduate minor program in Anthropology with multiple courses offered each semester, and is in the process of developing a major field of study.

The Cultural Resource Management program is currently conducting a Phase II archaeological assessment of two sites on the FGCU campus thanks to a Division of Historic Preservation grant to Corbett and Michael McDonald. In the spring, Corbett and Theresa will be directing archaeological excavations and laboratory analysis at the Fort Myers Beach Cultural Museum and Environmental Learning Center Mound House property. Anthropology students from FGCU, avocational and public volunteers are encouraged to participate in the project. The Mound House project is funded by a Division of Historic Resources grant with matching funds from the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

**FGCU Site Evaluations**

Excavations to evaluate two sites on the FGCU campus will begin in December. One site is a sheet midden that appears to represent a small village, and the other is a small sand mound adjacent to a pond. Both sites are situated in a beautiful oak and palmetto

hammock a short distance from parking facilities. Our objectives are to determine the horizontal extent of the site areas, their stratigraphic components, their age, probable function, and relationship to other sites in the Caloosahatchee region. *So why is that little mound out there in the forest?*

**Archaeological Assessment of the Estero Island Site**  
Excavations at the Fort Myers Beach Cultural Museum and Environmental Learning Center will begin in February. We will be investigating the same sorts of questions that are being asked of the FGCU sites, but the sites are quite different. The Estero Site today is characterized by a relatively large mound on the bay side of Estero Island, but only a short walk to the Gulf. Due to the location of the site in a residential neighborhood, we will manage carefully site visitation paying particular attention to traffic volume through the neighborhood. Those of you who will be attending the SWFAS picnic will get a preview of this fascinating site. *Was this the site the Spanish moved to when they temporarily vacated the mission on Mound Key in 1567?*

**Call for volunteers!** If you would like to volunteer to help excavate or process artifacts in the laboratory for either of these two projects please contact Corbett Torrence or Theresa Schober at 941-590-7239 or email at [tschober@fgcu.edu](mailto:tschober@fgcu.edu). All volunteers

are required to have memberships with a regional archaeological society in Florida --such as the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society or Warm Mineral Springs Archaeological Society.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rebecca L. Harris, Director of the Fort Myers Beach Cultural Museum and Environmental Learning Center, will be the speaker at the January 16th meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. The group will meet at Florida Gulf Coast University in Building Academic 3 in room 110 at 7:30 P.M. Her talk will be entitled "Time and Space in Southern Florida: Environmental Dynamics of the Lake Okeechobee Basin".

Rebecca Harris received her BA from the University of Florida, her MA from Florida Atlantic University and is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arkansas. She is a Registered Professional Archaeologist and has worked throughout the Southeastern US. Rebecca is currently focusing on prehistoric settlements in

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the wetlands of southern Florida.

Avocational and professional archaeologists as well as those interested in history are welcome to attend. For further information call 941-597-2269.

Dorothy L. Thompson  
576 Retreat Drive, apt. 202  
Naples, FL 34110

941-597-2269