

# Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Newsletter



BETSY MCCARTHY, EDITOR

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## OCTOBER SWFAS MEETING

The October 2005 monthly meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We will meet, as usual, at the Bonita Springs Community Center at Old 41 and Reynolds Street. The public is invited to attend.

## CRAIGHEAD LAB NOTES

The lab has been infested with bees and it was becoming a problem with bees flying around, dying in the ceiling lights and generally causing quite a commotion. They had a nest in the roof and were finally eliminated. Whew!

We are close to finishing the Strader report and are working on the Addison Key site. We have finished all the material that was given to us by Bob Carr and now await removal of those boxes and hopefully the rest of the OMI material.

## NEW SWFAS MEMBER

We welcome new member Frances Osterhoudt from Bonita Springs. We are happy to have you join.

## MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2005-2006 LECTURE SERIES

On October 4, 2005, at Mackle Park, Phyllis Kolianos, co-editor of *The Florida Journals of Frank Hamilton Cushing* and the recently published (March 2005) *The Lost Florida Manuscript of Frank Hamilton Cushing*, will speak on the famous Frank Hamilton Cushing's "forgotten" manuscript, considered by some to be the legendary anthropologist's masterpiece.



Her book offers new insights into Cushing's significant contributions to Florida archaeology. These previously unpublished journals by one of

the most complex and enigmatic anthropologists, offer a dramatically new perspective on his Florida explorations. Recorded during 1895-96 as he traveled the Gulf Coast, his expeditions were sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology. Cushing's expedition came to Florida to explore the extraordinary remains of the ancient mound building cultures along the coast from Tarpon Springs south to Marco Island. Cushing's discovery of the muck pond that came to be known as the fabled Court of the Pile Dwellers, located in what is now Collier County, uncovered a rich archaeological site with some of the finest examples of prehistoric native art in North America. After excavation of the site, Florida archaeology vaulted into national prominence, adding a critical chapter to Cushing's productive yet controversial career.

Phyllis Kolianos, Manager of the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, has a Master's Degree in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida. Her background includes museum studies and exhibit design.

On November 1, 2005 at Mackle Park at 7 pm, Bob Carr, executive director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy in Miami, and the discoverer of the Miami Circle will talk about the last century of life in South Florida as archaeologists have raced to uncover civilizations ahead of South Florida's rapid development. Entitled *100 Years Since the Cushing Expedition*, his talk will focus on the significant archaeological discoveries and prehistoric sites in South Florida. Bob Carr was a co-founder of the Archaeological and

Historical Conservancy, and has served as their director since 1985. He has worked as an archaeologist with the state of Florida's Division of Historic Resources and with the National Park Service. Mr. Carr has a Masters Degree in Anthropology from Florida State University, and was the former editor of the Florida Anthropologist and former president of the Florida Archaeological Council. He has been the recipient of the Bullen Award and received Florida's Historic Preservation Award in 2003.

On December,6, 2005 (Time and Place to be announced) William H. Marquardt, Curator in Archaeology, Florida Museum of Natural History, will speak on *A New Vision of the Pineland Site Complex*.



His talk will focus on a recent reassessment by Dr. Marquardt and his colleague Dr. Karen Walker of the

appearance of the Pineland Site Complex. Based in part on Frank Cushing's 1895 and 1896 notes and sketch maps recently discovered by Phyllis Kolianos, but also on excavations, interviews, topographic maps, and aerial photographs, Marquardt and Walker now envision a much more complex site and a repositioned canal route. Alterations in the early twentieth century included the destruction of at least two enormous mounds. Working with Synergy Design Group, they modeled the new information in three dimensions, helping them to select views to be transformed into scenes of sixteenth-century Pineland life. These were incorporated into outdoor signs for the Randell research Center's Calusa Heritage Trail, now open to the public. Dr Marquardt has done archaeological research in New Mexico, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Burgundy (France). Since 1985, he has directed the southwest Florida Project, focused on the ancient domain of the Calusa Indians (present day Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties). He has also been instrumental in the establishment of the Randell Research Center, a research and education center at Pineland, near Fort Myers.

He is the author of several books and articles about the archaeology and history of southwest Florida, including *Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa* and *The Archaeology of Useppa Island*. He is co-author (with Darcie MacMahon) of *The Calusa and Their Legacy*. He is curator of the 6,000 square-foot Hall of South Florida People and Environments, a permanent exhibit in the

Florida Museum of Natural History's exhibit facility in Gainesville.

### **MILANICH WINS 2005 KEN MEEKER TRAVEL WRITER AWARD**

The Sanibel and Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce and the Lee County Visitor and Convention bureau are pleased to announce the winners of the 2005 Ken Meeker Travel Writer Awards. The competition is open to journalists from around the world and cash prizes are presented to authors of the top travel stories about our destination...

"The 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winner is Jerald T. Milanich, curator in archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, for his article in *Archaeology Magazine* entitled *Water World – The Art of the Calusa*. He will receive a \$500 check with his award. The story featured the extraordinary landscape that lies beneath the surface of our land and waters."

### **GEOLOGY RULES**

**by Jack Harvey**

#### **This Month – Cuddling Continents**

When Frank Hamilton Cushing explored Marco Island over a century ago, the world was well mapped. We knew where everything was and always had been. Or so we thought.

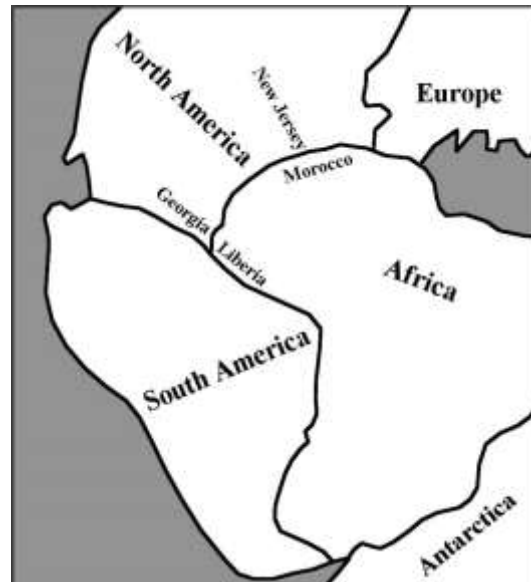
Then along came this annoying German, Alfred Wegener, who in 1912 said that the great continents of this planet moved about over its surface, clearly a ridiculous idea. Except that he was right. On a billion year time scale geologists are com-

fortable with, they scat all over the place. Similar floras and faunas of the planet, mysteriously isolated by oceans, in fact had land passages because of the motion of continents. Dinosaurs could simply walk between Africa and South America when they were cheek by jowl. Or so said Wegener. His proposal is backed up by the convenient fit of the western coastline of Africa with the Eastern coastline of South America.

Ridiculous, said the geology mavens. Continents simply can't move. They are part of the crust of the planet and have been where they are since the crust solidified 4.5 billion years ago.

It took about fifty years for sufficient evidence to pile up so that geology authorities began to believe that continental motion, over geologic time, was conceivable. Then the killer evidence arrived: mid-ocean ridges. There is a telltale continuous ridge that exists in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and all the other oceans of the world where there is continual spreading of the sea floor. At the line of spreading, new sea floor forms from the slow eruption of red-hot magma from the molten planet beneath. Iceland, the Azores, Ascension and many other islands plot its winding course in the Atlantic.

This was an epiphany. Geologists, over a period of a few years, regrouped and (for an old science) quickly developed a new model for the geologic history of the earth. Huge chunks of the surface of the earth move very slowly on a geological time scale of millions of years.



Pangaea 200 million years ago.  
*Where is South Florida?*

Next time, making waves for South Florida.

#### ABOUT SWFAS

The Directorate:

President – Corbett Torrence

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Theresa Schober

2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Tom Franchino

Recording Secretary – Jo Ann Grey

Treasurer – Charlie Strader

Membership – Charlie Strader

SWFAS Committees:

Field – John Beriault

Lab – Jack Thompson

Hospitality – Jeanne Sanders

Education – Dr. John Worth

Finance – Charlie Strader

Publicity – Victoria Rans

To Join: Address your check to:

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society,

PO Box 9965,

Naples FL 34101.

Dues are:

Individual - \$20. Sustaining - \$50.

Family - \$35. Student - \$15.

QUESTIONS, comments or contributions to the newsletter: Betsy McCarthy, 909-8 Augusta Blvd., Naples, FL, 34113, or e-mail:

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Board meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7 PM, Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs  
All welcome