

20/20, from page 1

— has recently resulted in the advisory committee for the program recommending the expansion of the definition of environmentally sensitive lands to include eco-archaeological resources.

Since inception, the Conservation 20/20 Program has purchased approximately 11,500 acres for cost of \$80 million with additional money set aside for more purchases and land management.

Otter Mound Preserve Gets a Facelift

By Betsy Perdichizzi

A dedicated group of workers toiled amidst the mosquitoes and the heat of the morning sun to plant trees and sift the dirt for artifacts at the Otter Mound Preserve on Saturday, June 17. The planting session is intended to restore the “upper canopy” of the bird sanctuary that was lost due to removal of invasive trees and, in part, to damage from Hurricane Wilma.

“Hurricane Wilma did us a favor,” said Melissa Henning, director of the project for Conservation Collier - a program with similar mission to the Lee County Conservation 20/20 program. “The hurricane uncovered extensive terracing that we didn’t know was there because of all the overgrowth of the property.”

The work party at the Otter Mound Preserve was made up of volunteers from several organizations including members of the Marco Island Historical Society, SWFAS, and a crew from the Craighead Lab. John Beriault of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy — who led the drive with AHC Executive Director, Bob Carr to save the Otter Mound property — was on hand to demonstrate the planting procedure to be used and help identify objects. Jack Harvey and Jack Thompson of the Craighead Lab worked a makeshift lab table, cataloguing



John Beriault (standing, wearing hat) provided guidance to volunteers.

artifacts recovered during planting.

Many remnants of pottery and shell tools were found but only diagnostic artifacts were collected. According to Beriault, decorated rim sherds found dated to A.D. 1200. Also found in one of the screens was a piece of tin used to repair a ladies shoe from the early pioneer era.

The park is still under construction and is off-limits to the general public until the trails, pathways and interpretive signposts are installed. School children will ultimately be able to learn much about the Calusa and Pioneer eras and native vegetation from this small park.

In the Pioneer era Jim and Tommie Barfield owned the land. The Barfield House at the back of the property burned down after 1960. A squatter by the name of Griner was living in a

house on the property and may have been the one who built the old outhouse that is still in existence.

Barfield apparently wanted to help his friend and neighbor buy the property. Barfield planted a crop of peppers, harvested them, and sold them at market in order for the old man to purchase the property.

Griner eventually took in Ernest Otter, his wife and son since they needed a place to stay. Mrs. Otter taught at Scripps School in Caxambas. The Otter’s took care of Griner until his death and eventually inherited the property from him. Otter built terracing for his garden using giant shells from the mound. In so doing, he may have preserved these shells for us... most shell mounds in Collier County were used to construct roads and airport runways.



Jack Harvey and Jack Thompson manned the Craighead Lab’s makeshift lab table.

A second work session is planned for Saturday July 15th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. If you would like to help on this beautiful property, call Betsy at 394-6917.

Lifelong Learning Opportunities at Florida Gulf Coast University

By Rebecca L. Austin

Did you know? Seniors citizens 60 years and older may be eligible to take classes for free at FGCU!

AND – the Renaissance Academy offers short courses, single lectures, day trips and more!

Throughout the year Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) offers non-degree applications and tuition waivers to persons 60 years of age or older, if you meet the requirements of Florida residency. For more information, contact the Office of the Registrar at 239-590-7980 or ORR@fgcu.edu. Or you may visit their website at <http://enrollment.fgcu.edu/registration/>.

The Renaissance Academy, based on the premise that learning should be a lifelong endeavor, utilizes the expertise



Randell Research Center Pavilion Nearing Completion

By John Worth
Assistant Director, RRC

The long-awaited classroom and bookstore at the RRC's Calusa Heritage Trail at the Pineland Site is almost finished, and at press time the completed structure is undergoing final inspections for a Certificate of Occupancy.

This final phase of the teaching pavilion complex, which has been in planning and development for over 5 years, includes a cedar-walled classroom with space for 50 visitors, screen ventilation, ceiling fans, and adjustable shuttered windows overlooking the Ibis Pond area of the site, as well as an air-conditioned bookstore and gift shop facilities, storage rooms, and a spacious front porch overlooking the north slope of Brown's Mound.

While interior furnishings are still in development, the tentative inauguration of the new classroom facility will be scheduled for this coming fall, after which the RRC looks forward to many and diverse uses for the new structure, ranging from classes and public lectures to meetings and workshops.

The Calusa Heritage Trail at the RRC is open 363 days a year (excepting only Thanksgiving and Christmas), 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., with guided tours offered to groups on prior reservation (239/283-2062). Please drop by for a visit and see our progress.



Front porch on recently completed teaching pavilion at the Randell Research Center on Pine Island.

FGCU, from left

of FGCU faculty, visiting speakers, and other specialists to offer a variety of short courses, concerts, study tours, lectures, and community involvement projects. The Mission of the Academy "makes possible in the present lifelong personal revitalization through learning, creativity, and social engagement." Classroom locations range from Cape Coral and Fort Myers, to Bonita Springs, Naples and Marco Island. Classes offered in July and August include such topics as: The Role of the Forensic Anthropologist, The Meaning of Democracy, Memory and Aging, Drug Discoveries in Plant Products, Indonesia: Friend in Transition and a travel tour to Italy.

For more information check their website at <http://www.fgcu.edu/racademy>, or call 239-590-9015, or 239-434-4737.

Geology Rules: Taming Time

By Jack Harvey

Deep time is wild. Archaeology usually deals with times much longer than a hu-man life. Geology studies the planet it-self, far older than humans, and the time intervals are immense. Zeros (10,000, 1,000,000, 100,000,000) lose meaning.

This month, we'll try to tame the times of significant events in the geologic history of Florida in a way that their relative dates can be understood. An old science-writing trick helps make vast reaches of time understandable: Scale the huge numbers down to dates within a single year since most people have a good sense of time for a year. Using this trick, we will scale the last 100 million years down to a single year and see where the main events fall.

January 1 – A year ago, the super-continent Pangaea broke up and the Atlantic Ocean started forming. The Atlantic is now wide enough that persistent coastal currents are flowing south along the east coast of the North American continent and east along its Gulf coast. A gigantic gyre has formed in the Atlantic and will become the Gulf Stream after Central America forms. The Florida peninsula begins forming a little north of Lakeland.

February 24 - The climate is much warmer than now. Ice caps and glaciers are minimal and sea level is very high most of the time. A shallow inland sea extends from Louisiana to the Arctic Ocean. The peninsula extends south to somewhere around Sebring.

April 2 – Oviraptor has evolved in Mongolia. Florida ends at about Venice.

May 8 – Dinosaurs rule the earth. The only mammals are similar to shrews. A six-mile diameter meteor strikes near Chicxulub, Mexico and the resulting fire-storms and climate changes kill most large life forms worldwide. Survivors are small and the tiny fur-covered mammals and reptiles with feathers that have learned to fly are among them. The Florida peninsula has grown down to about Port Charlotte, give or take a county.

July 2 – Whale ancestors swim the Atlantic and fox-size horses walk North America. Cuba and Hispaniola form as the sea floor Caribbean Plate collides with the sea floor North American Plate.

August 26 – Giant ground sloths evolve in Argentina and gradually populate South America. The relentless coastal currents and calcium carbonate cementation from the Gulf Stream extend terra firma south to very roughly Alligator Alley.

Global cooling has increased the frequency and depth of ice ages causing 400-foot changes in sea level, which are occurring about every five to ten "hours" in our scaled time. Generally lower sea levels and rising land levels have drained the inland sea in North America.

November 25 – Grass has evolved in the cooler climate. Grassland begins to re-place forests and horses are throughout the northern hemisphere.

December 2 – After volcanoes form a land bridge

Jan

Feb

*Very warm climate, high sea levels
North American inland sea*

Mar

Apr

Oviraptor in Mongolia

May

*Dinos rule the earth until...
The Meteor hits Mexico*

Jun

Jul

*Small horses in North America
Cuba forms*

Aug

North American inland sea drained by lower sea levels

Sep

Oct

Nov

Grassland replaces forests in northern hemisphere

Dec

*Panama land bridge
Neandertals
Bering land bridge
Modern man*

See GEOLOGY, page 4

GEOLOGY, from page 3

- between North and South American in Panama, giant ground sloths find Florida.
- December 13 – In Chad, west of the African Rift Valley, hominini split into two tribes, one becoming early chimpanzees and the other pre-humans.
- December 20 – A hominid we call Lucy of the species *Australopithecus afarensis* lives in Ethiopia and has learned to walk upright. The Florida peninsula now extends south to Key Largo.
- December 22 – Saber-toothed cats (*Smilodon gracilis*) dine on giant ground sloths.
- December 29 – Early Neanderthals are living in Spain.
- December 31, 3 PM – Modern humans leave Africa via Israel.
- December 31, 8:45 PM – Modern humans form the Aurignacian culture in Europe.
- December 31, 10:30 PM – Sea level reaches its low point during the last major ice age. Humans migrate from Asia (and possibly France) to North America and hunt against saber-

- tooth tigers. Tigers lose.
- December 31, 11:07 PM – Humans move to Florida and they just don't stop coming.
- December 31, 11:57 PM – Juan Ponce de Leon arrives in Southwest Florida.
- December 31, 8 seconds before midnight – SWFAS evolves.

I hope this little game has helped put all the ridiculous numbers from previous columns into perspective. But the peninsula lengths given here are not based on physical evidence. They are simple arithmetic interpolations assuming a constant growth rate. Almost nothing in nature is constant.

Also Florida was not always peninsular. During very warm periods when most continental ice melted, sea level was so high that Florida broke up into a series of low islands separated by very shallow seas.

Since South Florida isn't volcanic or made of colliding tectonic plates like Cuba, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico, just what is it? To learn that, we'll slip down below it, next time.

About SWFAS

SWFAS web site: www.explorationsinc.com/historical

The Directorate:

*President - Corbett Torrence
1st VP - Theresa Schober
2nd 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
Newsletter - Karen Nelson*

If you would like to join SWFAS, please address your check to: The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society; P.O. Box 9965; Naples, FL 34101

Dues are: Individual - \$20; Sustaining - \$50; Family - \$35; Student \$15

Board meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Hampton Inn in Bonita Springs. All welcome. Member meetings are the third Wednesday at 7:30 (coffee served at 7) at the Bonita Springs Community Hall on Old 41 (by the banyan tree).

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