



Vol. 24 No. 4

April 2008

## Late Archaic in SW Fla Subject at March SWFAS Meeting *March Meeting in Bonita Springs*

### Life and Death in the Late Archaic of Southeastern Florida

SWFAS Board member Alison Elgart, Ph.D., will be speaking at the April SWFAS meeting, to be held on Wednesday, April 16 at the Bonita Springs Community Center. The talk will begin at 7:30 p.m.; come at 7 for coffee and snacks and a chance to talk to fellow members.

A cemetery and discrete burials discovered at the Hiatus #2 site (DA3283), a Late Archaic to Glades Period site located on the Pine Island Ridge in Broward County, can inform us about the quality of life, social organization, and ideas about death during this time period. The cemetery area, located on the southeastern edge of the site in association with the habitation component, held many juvenile burials. At least four children aged six to ten years and one adolescent aged about 16 were found in this area, constituting an unusually high percentage of juvenile remains compared to similar

sites. Two discrete burials, located west of the cemetery area, contained adults. One of these burials contained a small female of advanced age with evidence of two healed traumas of unknown etiology.

These mortuary patterns are compared to other contemporaneous sites in southern Florida, and to later burial practices, including the analysis of animal burials at the Miami Circle site.

#### *Biographical Sketch*

Alison A. Elgart received a Bachelor's degree in anthropology from Binghamton University and a Doctoral degree in biological anthropology from Cornell University. Her interests are in health and disease in prehistoric populations. She teaches biological anthropology at Florida Gulf Coast University.



*Alison Elgart in the field*

### 2008 FAS Annual Meeting -- May 2-3 in Tampa

The 60th Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society will be hosted by the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS) from May 2-4, 2008 in Ybor City/Tampa. Known as Tampa's Latin Quarter for over a century, Ybor City is an exotic blend of aromas, flavor, sights, and sounds. Founded by Vicente Martinez-Ybor as a cigar manufacturing center, Ybor City is one of only two National Historic Landmark Districts in Florida. Red brick buildings, wrought iron balconies, and narrow brick streets provide Old World charm with a refreshing pace. The District is filled with excellent restaurants,

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## Archaeological Currents: Clay and Time

*Editor's note: This article was originally submitted after the February 23 Calusa Heritage Day but before the March 1 firing.*

By John G. Beriault

Last week while helping with a replication event at Calusa Heritage Days at the Randell Research Center at Pineland, I began thinking about an elemental substance called clay. My event entailed letting visitors/participants, mostly children, take native clay, make an object on the first weekend and have it fired by traditional means (a large pit fire) on the second weekend. Kids are enthusiastic potters, put a lot of energy and concentration into their work, and often reluctantly leave off their activity, usually because the parent wants to move on. At the end of the first day we had a quantity of these slightly gummy creations, some quite good, ready to dry and be fired.

Clay is a totally “plastic” medium, lying there beneath your hand ready to be manipulated into an infinity of shapes and objects. Clay, when it is the proper consistency, is one of the most compliant things. It does not require the force needed to flake, chip, carve or percuss that wood, stone or harder, more resistant materials need to be fashioned into useful or decorative objects. And you don't always have to “take away” from or reduce the object you are fashioning. Unlike wood-carving or flint-knapping; you can add substance or appendages. Thus clay is the most pliable of natural substances – the first “artificial” non-composite material man has known. Clay was certainly the first “thing” with the ability to be transformed, in this case by heat and flame, to a hard and enduring substance. Metals came along later, but I believe clay was first. How did mankind “figure out” how to fire clay vessels and objects? I think my favorite explanation was some potters' wasp nests got in a fire and out came miniature “pots.” Some observant and intelligent person (likely



*Photo by Rebecca Austin  
SWFAS founder John Beriault  
working at RRC.*

a woman) noted what had happened and began experimenting with clay from puddled places. The rest, as we say, is prehistory...

Working in clay is satisfying and replicates life as people get to be creative but have to operate within practical limits or the piece won't hold together. There are rewards and joy when the work is over and the fire cools down and your transformed vitrified piece is pulled from the ashes intact; sorrow when you hear a metallic pinging noise and your object has exploded, spalled, cracked. But, each time you fire clay, you learn something from success or failure.

I could see the local Indians firing ceramics and making an event out of it. Perhaps several groups came together, mining the clay from locations used by generations for their superior clay. Perhaps the women puddled the clay, forcing out some of the sand and removing other impurities such as small stones and twigs. Then came the drying and wedging (beating the clay to remove air pockets and to achieve a uniform texture and consistency). Perhaps log sections or flattened cypress planks were used and the “thud...thud...thud” sound of the clay being beaten went on for hours in the camp. Then came the making of the pottery vessels with only the most experienced working on these, sitting on deerskins, tools arranged within easy reach, coiling the

clay to create the symmetrical globular shapes, smoothing the coils, gossiping, yelling at the young children to stand clear and not to play too close... Taking the pots and burnishing them with a smooth stone when they were leather-hard. Carefully placing the finished unfired pots in a safe, dry place for several days. And, finally the day of the firing comes. Burning a fire to dry the sand at the place of firing. Placing the pots together just so. Starting a fire with bow and fire stick and fiber from the cabbage palm. Starting a gentle fire first to gradually heat the pots and drive out more moisture. Chanting and praying for a dry Spring day and for no rain... Building up the fire, sending the children and the other women out to gather all the pieces of wood, palm fronds they could find. Watching the fire build and the temperature climb. And, in the afternoon watching the flames subside till the logs turn to gray ash. A night spent under the clear, starry night sky until the fire dies and the ash cools. In the morning, the dead ash is scraped away, and there are the next generation of pots ready to be cooked in, to carry food and other things in. Another round of the year's activities is done.

Time and time again this was done in South Florida for two thousand years. Today, we find the broken sherds scattered in the refuse of the shell middens, witnesses to those many events. And when the fire cools at the Randell Research Center we feel the same hope and fear (is my pot whole or broken?) as those other people many lifetimes ago.

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### April Events Archaeology and Ancient People

The Collier County Museum will have an *Archaeology and Ancient People* program on April 11 and 12. The first date is for students in the 4th and 5th grades who missed the Olde Florida Festival for several reasons. Saturday will be open to the public, Admission is \$5.00 for Adults, \$3.00 for students.

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## March 15 Marco Museum Groundbreaking

By Betsy Perdichizzi

Over 200 people attended the March 15 groundbreaking ceremony for the new Marco Museum, and it was an uplifting affair.

State Senator Burt Saunders spoke, followed by County and City officials who commented on the five gold shovels saying, "Let's start digging and clear this site."

ABC-7 covered the event, and Frankie Ray and Mary Ellen sang their song "Marco Memories." (He parked his old 1940s Olds on the ground all decorated with American flags). The Marco Island Strummers played.

Food and champagne punch was donated by local restaurants and grocery stores. Dick Sherman voluntarily flew his vintage Korean War spotter plane overhead and took photographs.

Best of all, our major contributors and MIHS hard workers, who have given us



*The ground-breaking ceremony for the new Marco Museum. Aerial photograph by Dick Sherman, who flew over in his L17 Navion airplane, a 1948 vintage red and white Korean War spotter plane.*

such great support, were there.

The name "The Marco Island Historical Museum" was proposed by major donors Jon and Sonja Laidig, and their request has been placed on the

consent agenda for the Board of County Commissioners on April 8, 2008. SWFAS is a Founding Circle member of the museum (SWFAS' name will be on the museum wall).

### Collier County school students glimpse Marco Island's Past

Three hundred students from Manatee Middle School, Pelican Marsh Elementary School and Immokalee Middle School visited Marco Island in the closing days of the art exhibit for Art Interprets History, Visions of Marco Island's Past (AIH) held at the Marco Center for the Arts (now in the Collier County Museum). SWFAS was one of the co-sponsors on the FDCA grant that sponsored the school children and the art work.

Students from Immokalee Middle School also had the chance to tour Otter Mound Preserve. Paul Arsenault, AIH Curator and artist, painted and spoke to students. Arsenault had captured parts of island history in Goodland

and Caxambas before it was lost in the 1970s and this body of work was on display at the art exhibit. He explained to visiting students that he often arrived just before buildings were to be demolished. Pointing to the Poinciana tree that he was painting he remarked, "The neat thing about being an painter is that you can do what you want with the painting. This tree would be so much prettier if it had blossoms on it." The tree had bloomed by the time the students finished their tour.

Melissa Hennig, Collier County Environmental Specialist, provided a table of Indian artifacts found at the shell mound and conducted students through the small park that combines



*Paul Arsenault talks to students at Otter Mound.*

pioneer and Indian history as well as indigenous flora and fauna.

### Lab Notes: The Craighead Lab

By Jack Thompson

The Craighead lab has been busy. The Buschelman report is being finalized with the help of Matt Betz, AHC.

Material from the Marco Sewer project is being analyzed now. We had the lab open for the Olde Florida Festival in early March. Attendance was about 2,000.

SWFAS was represented at Calusa Heritage Day in February at RRC. Our display equipment went to Pine Island and was well received.

The Lab will be open as part of the Collier County Museum's Archaeology and Ancient People program on April 11 and 12. Another 2,000-plus visitors are expected.

Finally, if you have ever visited the Lab, you know how crowded the place is. About 80% came from Chokoloskee Island many years ago. John Beriault is moving it to his place for study. We have shelf space now and will even find the little rear window soon.

## April Events, continued from page 2

Children under 8 are free. The Craighead Lab will be open both days. There will be more than 1,300 students.

### Patsy West on the Seminole in Bonita

*Patsy West* will speak to the Bonita Spring Historical Society on April 8 with a unique presentation on the native Seminoles with whom she has formed a close relationship. She is the author of *The "Enduring Seminoles"* and *"A Seminole Legend: The Life of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper."* West writes a column for the *Seminole Tribune* and is the director of the Seminole/Miccosukee Photographic Archive in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The author's books will be available for purchase.

Patsy West found hidden treasure 30 years ago in her great-grandfather's attic. Seven glass plate negatives from the 1890s, all of which were of Florida Seminole Indians, were the start of a lifelong passion. Over the years, West has compiled a private photographic archive of over 10,000 images housed in Fort Lauderdale. Most of the photos depict Seminoles in the tourist business in the 1920s and 1930s, an

important time in their modern history.

West, a native of south Florida, has consulted for the tribe and taught tribal history to Seminole children on the Big Cypress reservation. An ethnohistorian, her latest book contains 200 photographs from 1852 to the present, most of which would not be available had it not been for the tourist attractions.

*NOTE: Due to an election, the talk will be held in City Hall Council Chambers at 9101 Bonita Beach Road in Bonita Springs. Call 239-992-6997 for more info.*

**The Liles Hotel and History Resource Center will be open during the City's Celebrate Bonita festival on April 5.** New exhibits are on display and the library will be open on the second floor with local history books for browsing.

There are several titles for sale as well as new history booklets about Bonita Springs. The hotel is also open once a month during Evening In The Park hosted by the cottage artisans. *Call 239-992-6997 for more info.*

## FAS 2008, continued from page 1

eclectic shops and art galleries, plus a variety of pubs, patio bars, and nightclubs.

The venue for the FAS meeting will be the L'Unione Italiana (The Italian Club) at 1732 East Seventh Street. This beautifully restored 100-year-old building is located in the heart of Ybor City and was established to serve the social and economic needs of the Italian immigrant community in the early 1900s. Parking is free for meeting attendees on Saturday. A reception and the Stewards of Heritage Awards

presentation will be held Friday night from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Ybor City Museum State Park. A walking tour of Ybor City is provided on Sunday, May 4th from 8:30 to 10:30 am.

Conference hotel: Hampton Inn and Suites, 1301 East Seventh Avenue, Tampa 813.247.6700. Conference rate of \$119/night when you mention the Florida Anthropological Society and reserve by April 2nd. Parking \$6/vehicle.

More information and alternate hotel information can be found on the web at <http://www.fasweb.org>

### Preliminary Schedule of Papers

#### • **Morning Sessions / Auditorium**

Jeffrey M. Mitchem, *New Information on Nineteenth-Century Archaeologist S. T. Walker*  
 Jerald T. Milanich, *The Dimocks, Chroni- clers of Florida Indians, 1905-1910*  
 Timothy J. Brock, *Florida's Ecological Native: Perceptions of Precolumbian Land Use Practices*  
 Keith Ashley, *St. Johns II Research in Northeastern Florida (1997-2007): A Decade in Review*  
 Vicki Rolland, *Mississippian Period Alachua, Reconsidering Loose Ends*  
 Willet A. Boyer, III, *Changes and Continuity from the Late Prehistoric to Colonial Periods at Sites in the Ocklawaha River Valley*  
 William E. McGoun, *The Belle Glade Culture(s)*  
 David R. Butler & Jessica Clover, *An Investigation of Belle Glade Ceramic Variation*

#### • **Morning Sessions / Ballroom**

Rachel K. Wentz, *Beneath the Surface: The Mortuary Ponds of Florida's Archaic*  
 Peter Ferdinando & Micheline Hilpert, *The Bioarchaeology of the 1975 Salvage Collection from the Belle Glade Burial Mound (8PB41).*  
 Ryan Franklin & C. William Schaffer\*, *Bioarchaeology of Santa Maria Oveste (8DA11246)*  
 Lori D. Collins & Travis Doering, *Florida Archaeology in 3D: New Technologies for Seeing and Interpreting the Past*  
 Michael A. Arbuthnot, *Using Laser Technology to Conduct HABS Level 1 Documentations: The AL Lewis Archway (8SJ3060) Case Study*  
 Greg S. Hendryx, *Examining the Value of Heavy Machinery Stripping at Archaeological Sites*  
 Neill J. Wallis, Michael D. Glascock, & Jeffrey R. Ferguson, *Chemical Characterization of Swift Creek Pottery from the Atlantic Coast Using Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis*  
 Leslie E. Raymer & Greg C. Smith, *Inter-*

*preting the Use of Space Using Phase II Subsistence Data from a Tree Island Midden Site in St. Lucie County*  
 James N. Ambrosino & Skye W. Hughes, *Recent Excavations at 8DA5918, a Tree Island Midden in the Everglades*

#### • **Lunch Break with Speakers**

Richard W. Estabrook, *The Precontact Indians of Tampa Bay*  
 Michael K. Faught, *Gulf Coast Underwater: Maritime and Prehistoric Archaeology*  
 Brent R. Weisman, *Using Archaeology to Study Florida's Recent Past*  
 Question and Answer Session

#### • **Afternoon / Auditorium**

Thomas J. Pluckhahn & John Meyer, *Investigation of a Late Woodland Domestic Area at Kolomoki (9ER1)*  
 Jeffrey P. DuVernay, *Recent Investigations at the Yon Mound and Village Site (8Li2), Liberty County, Florida*  
 Elicia Kimble\*, *Rummaging Through*

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## Geology Rules: Keys to Florida

By Jack Harvey

What's an ooid? This curious word originated from the Greek (ova) for egg-like and describes tiny round or ovoid lumps of calcium carbonate. Lacking rising magma and tectonic plate upheavals, much of South Florida is made of them. A lot of the rest of it is made by living things and how these two create *passive margin* land explains a lot.

One way to explore South Florida formation is to study the Florida Keys from Largo to Key West. They are an ongoing demonstration of ways to make land without volcanic or tectonic activity.

Ooids form because of the tendency of calcium carbonate to precipitate out of seawater. In chemistry, precipitation often is triggered by solidification or crystallization around a central solid particle. Ooids can start from a microscopic grain of sand or shell in seawater supersaturated with calcium carbonate near the surface. Being near the surface helps because the pressure is lower and evaporation concentrates the solution. The concentrated calcium carbonate precipitates onto the nucleus grain as the mineral calcite. Repeated cycles of precipitation add layers. Agitation by surf or currents rolls the forming ooid and develops the round or ovoid shape.

If the agitation stops but precipitation continues, the new calcite acts like cement and sticks individual ooids together into a solid rock called oolite. This is one of the processes that built and currently is extending the Florida Keys. An even younger example of this is going on right now in the Bahamas but we'll stay in the



*Coral forms from the calcite skeletons of myriad tiny sea animals in many species.*

Keys.

Life also builds with calcium carbonate. Our own teeth and bones are our closest example. Sea life such as coral and shellfish depend on it. Oysters make ooid-like pearls. Bryozoans are another class of tiny sea animal that make stony coral-like skeletons. When cemented together by more calcite, they are called bryolite. And of course the discarded husks of all shellfish are potential new land.

Mangroves also result in new land from calcium carbonate. These estuarine trees, with their roots in salt or brackish water, don't require calcium carbonate directly for skeletons or any part of the plant. However, their myriad root stalks in tidal waters provide much surface area where calcium carbonate can precipitate.

All of these land-generating processes have something in common besides calcium carbonate. They take place under seawater but near its surface.

It's easy to see why this is so for the life-processes. Life requires an energy source to grow and reproduce and the overwhelmingly most common source is sunlight powering photosynthesis. But sunlight rapidly dims as one descends into the ocean depths. Skilled divers without scuba gear can easily reach a depth of 10 meters (33 feet) and will find that the brightness of the light will be only a quarter of what it is at the surface, a watery twilight. With professional diving gear and training, a diver can plunge to 100 meters (330 feet) where the sunlight is down to a mere half a percent of surface values. It's dark as night beyond the *euphotic depth*, a term meaning that photosynthesis is unsuccessful. Plants cannot grow and so animal life feeding on it can't live there either. In practice, relatively little life is found below 20 meters (66 feet).

Ooids don't require sunlight to form but they do require some turbulence to roil them up. There isn't much of that at depths greater than perhaps 20 meters so even ooids need to be near the surface in order to form efficiently. So the dictum that calcium carbonate land formation mostly happens near but under the sea surface applies to ooids as well.



*Ooids are tiny spheroids of calcite that are the basis of county-sized sheets of limestone.*

Some of the life-based processes also have another requirement: A tropical or sub-tropical climate. Corals are particularly restricted. In general, most can only thrive at latitudes lower than 30 degrees. That means between about Tallahassee, FL and Uruguay in South America, in a band girdling the earth. So Florida's current location on the planet has a lot to do with why our Keys have so much coral and in so many different kinds. Like snowbirds, coral loves our water temperatures.

Limestone, lime rock, marl, karst, calcite, dolomite, oolite, aragonite. These are all terms referring to calcium carbonate based rock that makes up most of South Florida land. But what about our award-winning white beaches? They aren't made of limestone. And what about the dirty sand we call topsoil that amazingly seems to grow tomatoes and citrus so well? That certainly isn't calcium carbonate based rock either. We have to explain how this stuff got here too if we are to understand where the land of the Calusa came from.

And don't forget this requirement that the calcium carbonate processes enumerated above happen under but near the sea surface. That rule has a hook in it. For land building, it can happen only near the sea shore and within the estuaries close to the sea. So we also have to explain how land not at the shore came to exist.

As I promised above, one way to unravel these puzzles is to study the Florida Keys. All of these land-building processes are at work today between Miami and Key West. If we learn how the Florida Keys came to exist, we will have more insight into the earlier origin of the rest of South Florida. So we will look at the action there next time.

**Don't forget to renew your membership -- all memberships expired in January!**

### FAS Papers, from page 4

Rubbish: Analysis of Feature 4 at the Yon Mound and Village Site (8Li2)  
 Steven H. Koski, Greg C. Smith, & Leslie E. Raymer, Results of a Phase I Terrestrial Archaeological Assessment Survey Surrounding Little Salt Spring, Sarasota County, Florida.  
 Phyllis Kolianos & Richard W. Estabrook, Public Archaeology in Action: Shoreline Midden (8Pi11569) Restoration  
 Sarah E. Miller, Christy Wood Pritchard, & C. Mathew Saunders, Increasing Archaeological Literacy in Flagler County: Development and Assessment of Archaeology Education Programs at Princess Place  
 Kevin M. Porter & Mary Glowacki, Ar-

chaeological Resource Management in Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park  
 Willet A. Boyer, III, The Use of Florida's Comprehensive Land-Use Plans as An Additional Layer of Legal Protection for Archaeological and Historic Sites

#### • *Afternoon Sessions / Ballroom*

Willet A. Boyer, III\*, Names of Power: A Linguistic Analysis of Names from the Timucuan Chiefdom of Acuera and their Implications for Understanding Acuera Culture in the Mission Era  
 Louis D. Tesar, Tommy Abood, & B. Calvin Jones, The San Antonio de Anacape Mission Convento Excavation at the Mount Royal Site (8PU35) in Putnam County, Florida

Carl D. Halbirt, "...skillfully disarticulated at the joints: A Seventeenth Century Donkey Burial, St. Augustine, Florida"  
 Jason Wenzel, The Archaeology and Social Class of the Fort George Club at Kingsley Plantation  
 Overview of the Oakland Historical Archaeology Project  
 Alita Huff Mikiten, Novelty to Necessity: Ceramic Artifacts from Early 20th Century Oakland, Florida  
 Kacie Allen\*, One Little Cemetery: Concerns and Insights on Early Hernando County from Tucker Hill  
 Thomas E. Penders, Phase I Investigation of a Jupiter Missile Crash Site, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Brevard County, Florida

### About SWFAS

#### *The Directorate:*

*President - Theresa Schober  
 1st VP - Tom Franchino  
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#### *SWFAS Committees:*

*Field - John Beriault  
 Lab - Jack Thompson  
 Hospitality - Jeanne Sanders  
 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*

#### *Learn more about SWFAS at:*

***<http://www.explorationsinc.com/swfl-archaeology/index.html>***

*Board meetings are usually held prior to the regular meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at the Bonita Springs Community Hall at 27381 Old U.S. 41 (by the banyan tree). All are welcome. Board meetings begin at 6 p.m. Regular meetings begin at 7:30 (with coffee served at 7).*

## April 2008 Newsletter

**The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society**  
**P.O. Box 9965**  
**Naples, FL 34101**