



Vol. 25 No. 4

April 2009

## April SWFAS: FPAN Candidates and Author of Mound Key Novel -- Meeting Starts at 7 p.m. in Bonita Springs

*The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. with a brief talk by novelist Tom Joseph, followed by a reception and a book signing and chance to purchase Tom's book, "Song of the Tides." This will be followed by presentations by the four candidates for the FPAN position that will be based at Mound House.*

### Author Tom Joseph talks about his Mound Key Calusa Novel

Tom Joseph was intrigued by the tales of the Calusa that he heard from his mother-in-law, Captiva Islander Ann Bruning. Ann participated in excavations on Sanibel and Captiva and knew the Buck Key mounds very well. Once Tom began to learn more, he was fascinated by the stories of the 16th century contact between the Calusa and the Spanish at Mound Key.

He contacted Dr. John Worth and obtained copies of his Spanish documents from that era. Some of John's translations

were not complete when Tom was doing his research, so a friend of Tom's did some of the translations for him.

"Song of the Tides" includes portraits of Carlos, Felipe, Father Juan Rogel and additional imagined players in the events of the mid-1500s. Come and hear how Tom re-created this fascinating period in Calusa history.

Tom Joseph is a novelist, essayist, former attorney and municipal judge and independent scholar of Florida history.

### Four FPAN Candidate Presentations

Four candidates for the FPAN (Florida Public Archaeology Network) position that will be based at the Mound House will give presentations at the April 15 SWFAS meeting.

#### **"Growing Communities in Archaeological Gardens: Two stories from Virginia and Colorado"**

*Steve Archer*

Two very different landscapes, thought to be lost to history, have been recently uncovered in excavations. One was the first public formal English colonial garden in the New World, installed in Williamsburg, Virginia in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The second consists of the remains of gardens in Colorado, fashioned by forcibly relocated Japanese-American internees during World War II. Both projects reveal the politics of the past landscape, but also build communities, through archaeology, in the present.

Steve Archer is an adjunct instructor of Anthropology at the College of William and Mary, and a Research Associate with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of California at Berkeley. Among other publications, he is the co-editor of Between Dirt and Discussion: Methods and Methodology in Historical Archaeology (Springer, 2006).

#### **"The Origins of Stone Tool Technology: An Interactive Presentation"**

*Amelia Clark*

Technology is such an integral part of our daily lives that it is hard to think of living without it. One of the earliest archaeologically recognized forms of technology is stone tool technology. Dating from at least 2.5 million years ago, stone

*Continued on page 2*

## Welcome to New SWFAS Members

- *Matthew Gerenday, student*
- *April Holmes, student and archaeologist*

***And we would also like to give a special thanks to those members who gave SWFAS a little extra with their membership renewals.***

### FPAN -- from Page 1

tools are one of the oldest and most common types of artefacts found at prehistoric archaeological sites. Archaeologists use stone tools to determine cognitive ability, subsistence practices, and cultural identity of prehistoric people. Several theories regarding how and why early human ancestors began to make and use stone tools will be discussed, along with which early human ancestors could have been capable of making stone tools. The impact of tool use on our physical and cultural evolution shall also be explored. During the presentation, audience members will have the opportunity to try to learn how to make a stone tool.

Amelia Clark received a BA in Anthropology from Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, a MA in Archaeology from the University of Oxford, Oxford, England, and a PhD in Archaeology from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. She has excavated on numerous archaeological sites in Great Britain, the United States, Spain, Lesotho, and South Africa ranging from the Iron Age to the Stone Age. She has been teaching Anthropology at West Virginia Wesleyan College, in Buckhannon, West Virginia for the last 7 years.

### **“The Relevance of Understanding Early Complex Societies”**

*Scott Palumbo*

It has been estimated that 99% of human history was lived without institutionalized forms of social inequality or political hierarchy, both of which have come to dominant and shape the world we know today. This presentation will explain the relevance of studying early complex societies, and explore some of the evidence archaeologists use to approach these issues by contrasting the Calusa against an archaeological sequence from Panama.

Scott Palumbo got his start in historical archaeology through a public archaeology program in Connecticut during high school. He received degrees from University of Connecticut and University of Florida and is scheduled

to receive his Ph.D. this summer from the University of Pittsburgh. He is an award-winning anthropology instructor with research interests in prehistoric complex societies who has conducted archaeological fieldwork in the Northeastern and Southeastern United States, Peru and, most recently, Panama, where he helped to build an archaeological program and design museum exhibits for local students and volunteers.

### **“Pools and Pests: Examples of Issues Affecting the Preservation of Sarasota Shell Middens”**

*Nelson D. Rodriguez*

Nelson Rodriguez will discuss his personal experiences working on two Florida shell middens. The sites are at opposite ends of a preservation curve but both deal with ongoing issues of integrity. The Alameda Shell Midden magnifies the importance of a concerned citizenry in the safeguarding of coastal resources against development. On the other hand, the “Window to the Past” at Historic Spanish Point uses the impacts on the site of a historic period occupation to create an interactive experience. Household pests are a serious consideration for exhibits in enclosed outside environments creating new issues in preservation and integrity. Mr. Rodriguez will present some suggestions that could help resolve the problems at the “Window to the Past”.

Nelson D. Rodriguez, a native of Puerto Rico and a Registered Professional Archaeologist obtained a Master of Arts in Public Archaeology/Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida in 2004. He has been working in cultural resource management for eight years. In a professional capacity at Archaeological Consultants Inc. of Sarasota, Nelson has obtained experience in federal, state, and local regulations that guide the preservation of cultural resources and unmarked burials. He is also a yearly participant in the Great American Teach-in for several Hillsborough County.

***Just a reminder from the Treasurer that annual membership dues are due January 1st. So, if you have not yet paid yours, we hope you will renew soon and save us sending dues notices. Each membership is important!***

## Digital Archaeology: Search Engine

By Jack Harvey

Spiders skitter over the entire World Wide Web, exploring every strand and devouring any tidbits found. Their acquired knowledge is then pooled and used to point the way to a world of answers.

Of course there aren't literal arachnids crawling about the Internet. Web crawlers are metaphors for computer robots that (remaining in one place) browse the World Wide Web. Although the Internet is a real physical communication network, the World Wide Web it supports is pretty much a metaphor. If it exists, it consists of software links at Internet sites that, like signposts at a crossroad, point to destinations you can visit for specifics. The Web crawling robots use these signposts ("hyperlinks" in Internet jargon) to help find the jillions of pages of information. We see the signposts as words or phrases on Internet pages (usually underlined and/or in color) that when clicked take us to the new page.

As the Internet rapidly expanded, it became apparent that something was needed to help organize the information torrent. Tim Berners-Lee proposed a scheme analogous to the references in scholarly articles. The WWW scholarly references are these signposts, replacing a trip to the library with a mouse click. Since his proposal defined a software standard, it was easy for computers to explore all such references automatically.

These possibilities lead to search engines such as Yahoo!, MSN, AOL, Ask Jeeves and Google. Their robots read literally everything openly available on the Internet, indexing it all to cut your search time to fractions of a second.

They do this magic by organizing the results of reading everything on the

**Florida Anthropological Society**  
Florida's Statewide Organization of Archaeology and Anthropology

**Links to other archaeology and anthropology websites**

[Digital Archive of back issues of The Florida Anthropologist](#)

**Florida archaeology societies and related organizations**

[Florida Archaeological Council](#)

[Florida Archaeology Month](#)

[Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research](#)

[Florida Division of Historical Resources](#)

[Florida Museum of Natural History](#)

[Florida Public Archaeology Network](#)

[Florida State Parks](#)

[Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center](#)

"Signpost" Examples

Clickable signposts on the FAS Internet site: [fasweb.org](http://fasweb.org) Click on Links.

Internet into databases. (Remember databases?) Then we can query a database to find where information we need is stored – anywhere in the world.

For example suppose we are studying a particular type of decorated aboriginal ceramic and need to read the existing literature about it. Our query might be: "Key Largo Incised". (Include the quotes.) In less than a second, the Google search engine reports over 200 articles and publications accessible on the Internet that contain the exact phrase "Key Largo Incised". The items are then listed for you to choose from. But instead of listing them in alphabetic or random order, each item is ranked so that those most likely to be important appear first. In this case, the highest ranking item is currently a book written by Randolph Widmer. Bingo, Google found the shoulders of a giant for you

to stand on.

How can a computer robot know that Widmer's book is likely to have what you are looking for? One way is by counting the number of times your search phrase appears. Another powerful indicator is the number of signposts (hyperlinks) on web sites around the world pointing to Widmer's book since a high number indicates that many authors consider him a giant in archaeology.

But don't be fooled by the seeming simplicity of this particular archaeology example. If I omit a single word, Incised, from the search phrase making it just "Key Largo" Google reports nearly three million books and articles! The top three are about the popular tourist destination in the Florida Keys of course, and the fourth item is about a movie starring

*Continued on page 4*

## 2009 Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage Archaeology Speaker Series

- April 18, 2009 2:00-4:30PM, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, Miami - Dr. James J. Miller on "Latest Research in the Bahamas" & Robert S. Carr on "The Bahamas Legacy: New Discoveries in the Northern Bahamas"



## Geology Rules -- from Page 3

Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Widmer's book is probably buried far down in the uselessly gigantic pile but I can't find it.

Though extremely simple to use, search engines can't read your mind. If you add a word to our search phrase, making it "Key Largo Incised Ceramic", you get "no results found" showing that your choice for the search phrase is critical. So it is very important to learn how to use these robots. One way is to search for "Google search tutorial", finding lots of pages about how to use this robot. And by all means, try lots of things. An interesting exercise is to search for your own name and unless it's extremely unusual, you may be very surprised.

The general Internet search engines only give you lists of sites to visit where you may find what you need. They don't tell you exactly where to find your answers within a site so it might seem you still must read every word to get your target. Scholarly books and papers almost always include a Table of Contents and an Index, carefully compiled by the author or editors to help with this problem. Yet we

all know the frustration of not finding a topic we need in one of these tables. But when reading a document with a computer, you can search directly for any occurrence of a word or phrase without depending on the foresight of the person who compiled the Index.

Most Windows-based programs and Web browsers offer a local search tool when you key "Ctrl F". (In Macintosh-based software, it's "Command-F" or "Apple-F".) These tools take your word or phrase of interest and find everywhere it occurs in the document you're reading. You aren't limited by what is in the document Index or even if an Index exists. This digital tool alone immediately makes far more literature rapidly useful to you so it's important to know how to use it.

And that's the catch. Just as the world had to learn to read in order to benefit from Gutenberg's printing press, we all must learn how to use the powerful new digital tools the Internet puts in our hands. Like learning to read, the new tools open new worlds.

Send suggestions for topics to: [jakharve@earthlink.net](mailto:jakharve@earthlink.net)

### About SWFAS

*The Directorate:*  
 President - Theresa Schober  
 1st VP - Tom Franchino  
 2nd VP - James Oswald  
 Recording Secretary - vacant  
 Treasurer - Charlie Strader  
 Membership Secretary - Charlie Strader

*Trustees:*  
 Rebecca Austin, Jean Belknap, John Beriault, Liz Clement, Alison Elgart, Betsy Perdichizzi, Annette Snapp, Jack Thompson

*SWFAS Committees:*  
 Field - John Beriault  
 Lab - Jack Thompson  
 Hospitality - volunteer welcome!  
 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 2009 Newsletter

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