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September 16: Jeff Moates on Florida Keys Shipwrecks

The September 16 SWFAS meeting will be at the Bonita Springs Community Center, with Jeff Moates talking about shipwrecks in the Florida Keys.

The investigations of 18+ shipwrecks in the Florida Keys discussed in this presentation are the recent partnership efforts by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the State of Florida (Florida Underwater Archaeology Team/Bureau of Archaeological Research) to record and assess submerged cultural resources in the Florida Keys.

Both entities signed a programmatic agreement in 1992 which laid the groundwork for continued collaboration.

The shipwrecks investigated (between 2004-2009) span Florida's historic time period. Researchers have documented (in some cases re-documented) shipwrecks that are the remains of the plate fleet disaster of 1733 through to more modern times with the scientific survey of a late 19th century

“oversized workhorse,” a composite-built (wood with iron framing) vessel later converted and most likely used during the construction of the Overseas Railroad.

Jeff is the Director of the West Central Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, based in Tampa. He earned a Masters degree in History/Historical Archaeology and a Bachelors degree in Anthropology from the University of West Florida (UWF). His professional experiences in archaeology and related fields include: archaeological technician for Archaeological Consultants, Inc (ACI; a cultural resource management firm based in Sarasota, FL), underwater archaeologist with the Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) in Tallahassee, museum curator of the Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez. He grew up on the west central coast and graduated from Manatee High School in Bradenton.

Coming up in October: Crystal River & Hopewell Interaction

The Hopewell Interaction Sphere was a phenomenon that engulfed the entire Eastern and Central Woodlands areas.

Best expressed by exotic and carefully crafted works of stone, metal, shell, and minerals often found in Woodland (500 BC to AD 200) burial contexts, it has been the subject of much speculation. Some have characterized it as interregional trade, some as a shared religious cult, others as a series of mortuary practices involving elaborate burial mounds and rituals. It may well be all three and more.

This talk will discuss the Hopewellian artifacts recovered from the famous Crystal River site in coastal Citrus County and discuss how large coastal sites may have acted as “gateways” for the movement of these goods and ideas from



Richard Estabrook

the heartland of North America out sites deep in the Florida's interior.

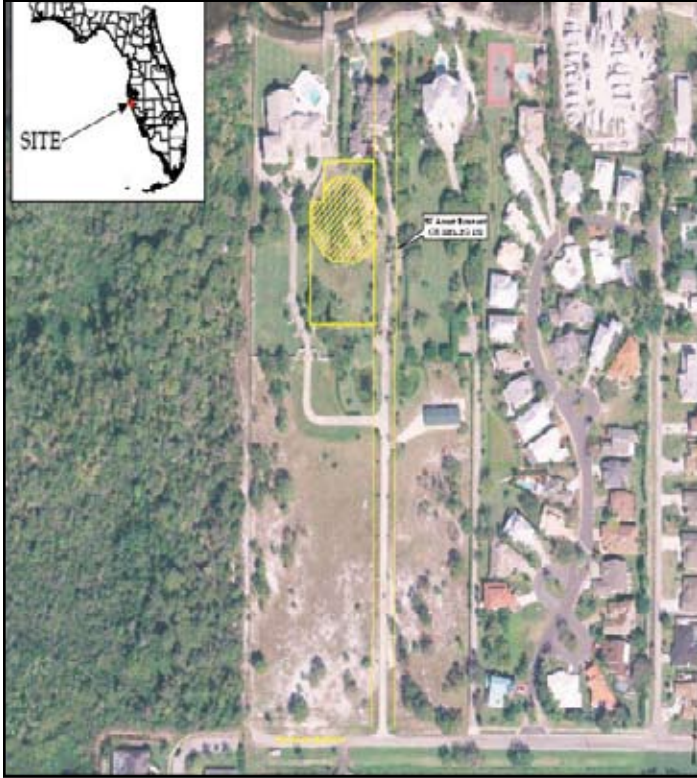
Richard Estabrook has been involved with Florida archaeology since 1981. He holds degrees in Anthropology and History from the State University of New York at Stony Brook (now Stony Brook University), Applied Anthropology (Public Archaeology) from the University of South Florida (USF) and a graduate certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from USF. Since 1986, Richard has work has focused on private

sector applications for Cultural Resource Management (CRM) firms and government agencies. He is currently ABD in his Ph.D. research at USF where he is employed as the Director of the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) Center at the Crystal River Preserve State Park.

Bradenton's Pillsbury Mound Purchased by State

Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Cabinet recently approved the purchase of Pillsbury Mound—a Florida Forever project and one of the last preserved Native American temple mounds in lower Tampa Bay. Once purchased from the South Florida Museum, the one-acre plot will be maintained by the Manatee County Natural Resources Department.

“Approval of this important purchase completes the



Pillsbury Mound Florida Forever Project, which is one of 66 projects on the Florida Forever ‘A’ list,” said DEP Deputy Secretary Bob Ballard. “This acquisition ensures that the archaeological value of the site is preserved for future generations.”

Pillsbury Mound, located in northwest Bradenton, is believed to have been one of several ceremonial mounds in the vicinity that made up a settlement of Lake Weeden Island and Safety Harbor cultures that existed from about AD 800 to 1700. It was first recorded in 1929 during a survey by the Smithsonian Institution.

“With this purchase, we have been given the opportunity to protect and preserve this resource of our culture and our history,” said Manatee County Natural Resources Director Charlie Hunsicker. “This area is designed to be a historically protected site where visitors will be escorted under quarterly scheduled guided tours from our department.”

“The site is considered by many contemporary Native Americans to be sacred,” said Mike Wisenbaker with the Department of State’s Division of Historical Resources. “It is an outstanding historical resource that will be preserved in perpetuity, and that was Mr. Pillsbury’s intent all along.”

The Florida Forever program established by the Florida Legislature in 1999 conserves environmentally sensitive land, restores waterways and preserves important cultural and historical resources. For more information on the Florida Forever program, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/fl_forever.htm. To view a map of the property, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/news/2009/05/files/pillsbury_mound.pdf

Digital Archaeology: Rule Britannica

By Jack Harvey

Encyclopaedia Britannica has a well-deserved reputation as a quality source of introductory information on a great many topics. Article authors are frequently Nobel laureates paid a small stipend to write digests of their expertise. A staff of about 100 editors ready these digests for publication in the well-known shelf of beautifully printed and illustrated books, the pride of many personal libraries and obligatory for institutional libraries. It clearly is one of the best demonstrations of the information explosion created by movable type and Gutenberg’s printing press.

First published in 1768 in Edinburgh, it survived many competitors in spite of much turnover of ownership. About 1901 it came under American management and ownership. We all recall its door-to-door sales that helped stave off bankruptcy, a constant threat. The mail-order giant Sears Roebuck managed it in mid-twentieth century. Currently headquartered in Chicago, it is now owned by Swiss billionaire Jacqui Safra.

Very few continuing publications can claim a lifetime of 241 years, but Britannica has survived, maintaining a world-

wide reputation for quality. And now it may be doomed by the Internet. Why, when its articles are available on the Internet can this be a threat?

(And why is this of interest to archaeologists? An encyclopedia is surely not an important source for the latest scientific investigations, comparable to *Florida Anthropologist*.)

Because a likely Britannica-killer is Wikipedia, an Internet-based upstart just eight years old. It is a powerful demonstration of an *Internet electronic forum* I discussed in “Giant Shoulders” earlier. Scientists learning to exploit this new digital tool can learn much from studying how Wikipedia works. This is a non-profit professional-level general encyclopedia available world-wide free of charge and advertising. A global forum of 150,000 members has written over 11 million articles that can be updated daily. This is at least a hundred times *larger* than the for-profit commercial Britannica.

Surely this must be low-level amateur material, a poor substitute for the professionally written and edited Britannica

Continued right

Otter Mound Maintenance in July

Report by Jack Harvey

On July 30, 461 more native trees, shrubs and ground cover plants were added to the previous efforts restoring the Otter Mound Preserve on Marco Island, overseen by Melissa Hennig of the Collier County Facilities Management Department. The planting was done by a crew from Earth Balance, Inc.,

It was originally planned that the earth excavated for the plantings would be shoveled into archaeology screens but an engine-powered auger was used to drill the hole and the auger flung the excavated earth out in a broad ring around the hole.

Artifact recovery was done by an archaeologist (including John Beriault, photo right) following behind and examining the layer of fresh earth around the hole. A shoe-tip was the principal tool used to look for artifacts. When found, they were returned to SWFAS "field headquarters" along with a numbered flag showing the location.

Although this method recovered



relatively few artifacts (compared to previous screening digs at this site), it selected for large items and we got several beauties, including the fourth plummet recovered from Otter Mound Preserve. The earlier three have been on display at Craighead Lab for a couple of years. This one weighs 41 grams and is clearly made of stone rather than

shell. I think it is most likely one of the many variations on limestone found in South Florida.

The other artifacts recovered were mostly ceramic sherds. This new material will be included in SWFAS's overall Otter Mound database. We may at some point issue an update of the existing report.

Left: Plummet from Otter Mound.

Above: Augur excavation and John Beriault (right) and the "shoe-tip test."

Digital -- from left

articles with their long history of scholastic quality? You be the judge. Go to www.wikipedia.org and put "archaeology" in the search box in the left column. (The site includes a powerful search engine, a faster version of Britannica's printed "Propaedia" index.) Read the opening paragraphs of the article displayed. Notice the dozens of pointers (blue type) to other scholarly articles. Click on some to see the instant access to details when you want them. Look at the color photos of major artifacts and sites.

Each Wikipedia article includes tabs at the top above the title to see current discussions about the article, edit in your

changes, plus the history of the article development. This is because each article is not just one person blogging, twittering or texting. Instead, every article is often the result of many people working as a team to get it right. Errors are quickly spotted and corrected since this is an on-going process. Just because an article is "published" and on public view doesn't mean it's cast in stone. It's digital and therefore instantly changeable. And YOU are invited to join and suggest your own corrections, improvements or additions.

To see more archaeology articles in Wikipedia, try the

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Digital Archaeology -- from Page 3

following three in the site search box: "Calusa", "Weedon Island Preserve" and "Key Marco". These articles are very brief and incomplete, but again you are asked to correct, expand and flesh out the work of other volunteers.

Wikipedia is owned by Jimmy Wales of St. Petersburg, Florida and his paid staff is currently just twenty-three. Compare that with Jacqui Safra's staff of about 100 people to manage Britannica. Safra collects money from you to read his encyclopedia while Wales lets you examine all 11 million articles for free. Yes, Wales asks for donations to cover his roughly six million dollars in annual expenses. A significant part of his expense is the computer equipment that displays Wikipedia articles to roughly 275 million people every month.

Neither Safra nor Wales consider these properties cash cows. Both are probably happy if they simply don't lose money while promoting knowledge. Which will win the battle probably doesn't seriously matter to us, although I will feel a personal loss if Britannica disappears. What

is important to archaeologists (and other scientists) is the power of the Internet for collaborative professional-level work that Wikipedia demonstrates. Although real scientific invention and discovery is usually by an individual, the all-important peer review, corroboration and generalization is always by a scientific community. We have been building these communities for several centuries with travel and university campuses. Wikipedia shows how to do it with the Internet for much less expense and far faster.

Wiki-wiki is Hawaiian for quick. *Wiki* is acquiring a new meaning as a collaborative Web site allowing user editing and additions to content. Quick is easy on the Internet but the trick is avoiding graffiti and nonsense while building a scholarly scientific community of peers. Wikipedia can be used as a free university showing how to accomplish this digital miracle.

Send suggestions for topics to:
jakhharve@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).

September 2009 Newsletter

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