



Vol. 27 No. 2

February 2011

SW Fla's Cuban Fishing Heritage at February 17 SWFAS

At the February 17 meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Meg Stack will discuss the Cuban fishermen of Southwest Florida. The presentation will be held at the Bonita Springs Community Hall at 27381 Old U.S. 41 (by the banyan tree). It is free to the public. The meeting begins at 7:30; coffee and snacks are available at 7 p.m. Call 239/992-9660 for more information.

The waters of Southwest Florida have served as a valuable fishing territory for thousands of years. The abundance of fish in Southwest Florida's estuaries and its proximity to Caribbean markets supported a prosperous commercial fishing industry in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Archaeologist Meg Stack has analyzed historic documents, material culture, and archaeological collections related to Cuban fishing ranchos on Florida's west coast. Stack's talk will address the history of Cuban fishing settlements from Charlotte Harbor to Tampa Bay and their lasting impact on the south



Florida landscape.

Stack is currently completing her master's thesis examining the "Spanish Indian" identity of Cuban Rancho dwellers at the University of South Florida. She has contributed to public archaeology projects with the Florida Public Archaeology Network and the University of South Florida.



Don't forget - SWFAS memberships expired in January!

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

Randell's Calusa Heritage Day on March 12

The Randell Research Center's Sixth Annual Calusa Heritage Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2011. This popular event focuses on regional archaeology, history, and ecology with the theme this year being paleoethnobotany.

Art, music, and replicative technologies, as avenues to learning/education about Pineland's heritage, will be included. Activities for children and adults alike will be provided, and food and beverages will be available. Admission is \$5 per person; children under 12 are admitted free. All proceeds benefit the education and research programs of the Calusa Heritage Trail, Randell Research Center.

The day-long event (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) will take place at the Pineland archaeological site complex (13810 Waterfront Drive, Pineland) and will be centered around the Pavilion/Classroom and Calusa Heritage Trail. Visitors can expect a variety of activity, exhibit, and information stations located in these areas in a festival format as well as site tours.

Artists participating include Peter Sottong, of Naples



Art by Elizabeth Smith of Naples, first featured on the cover of *The Palmetto*, the magazine of the Florida Native Plant Society in 1997 and used with permission for Calusa Heritage Day

who creates extraordinary reproductions of Calusa masks, Felix Rodriguez, whose wooden canoe paddles are stunning in their detail, and David Meo, whose paintings grace new displays at the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. "Calusa Tastings" will offer a chance to sample roasted oysters, grilled and smoked mullet, and papaya, and those sampling the fare will learn about the archaeological significance of these foods. Storytellers Gerald Hausmann and Gene Toncray will join others to share tales and Carol Mahler, author of *Guy LaBree, Barefoot Artist of the Seminoles*, will be among the authors present. Speakers include John Beriault (10:30 a.m.), Lee Newsom (11:15 a.m.), Robin Brown (12:15 p.m.), and Bill Marquardt (1:00 p.m.).

Examples of native plants with information about their many uses by early and contemporary people will be featured in the native plant tent and vendors will be on hand selling native plants suitable for southwest Florida. Tours of the Calusa Heritage Trail, suitable for all ages and interests, will be offered. Additional walking tours focusing on native plants and wildlife will take participants off the main trail to little-visited areas. Experts from the Florida Museum of Natural History will be on hand with artifacts and information on the use of plants by the Calusa and their predecessors. A children's area will feature hands-on activities.

The featured speaker this year is Dr. Lee Newsom of Pennsylvania State University, who will speak on the use of plants by Native Florida people from 10,000 years ago to the present, with emphasis on her work at the Pineland Site. Dr. Newsom's scientific talk, entitled "Paleoethnobotanical Foundations of the Calusa Kingdom," will be held in the RRC classroom at the Calusa Heritage Trail, beginning at 2 p.m. For this talk only, pre-registration is required by calling 239-283-2157. Dr. Newsom will also give a non-technical public talk at 11:15 a.m. in the Speakers tent.

Lee A. Newsom is an Associate Professor with the Department of Anthropology and a member scientist of the Institutes of Energy and the Environment at The Pennsylvania State University. Her research emphasizes Environmental Archaeology in theory and practice, drawing especially on insights from paleoethnobotany and island biogeographic theory to consider issues involving biotic resources and human social organization, plant domestication, the evolution and transformation of Caribbean garden systems, and the so-called "Columbian Exchange", i.e. the global biotic interchange that had its inception in 1492. Her (2004) co-authored book with Elizabeth Wing, *On Land and Sea: Native American Uses of Biological Resource in the West Indies*, concerns Environmental Archaeology in the Caribbean. In 2002 Newsom was named a MacArthur Fellow and she has since used that award to foster a variety of projects and initiatives in the region.

A SWFAS Tribute to Dorothy Thompson

Dorothy L. Thompson, long time SWFAS enthusiast and wife of Jack W. Thompson, died on January 18, 2011. Dottie was among the early founding members of our Society and contributed strongly to its activities and growth.

A childhood friend of Jack Thompson, Dorothy Hamil married him during World War II while he was a young naval officer stationed in Florida. After the war, they and their children lived in several locations throughout the United States, with much of their life in St. Louis, Mo. It was there that she and Jack became active in archaeology, participating in work in Illinois and Missouri. There, Dottie attended the University of Missouri, St. Louis, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications in 1981. Shortly after that, she and Jack moved to Naples, FL.

As Jack worked with John Beriault and Charley Strader to organize early SWFAS activities, Dottie put her Communications degree to work

publicizing those activities and attracting members to the fledgling Society. She made sure that timely notices of our activities and monthly meetings appeared in all the local media. Dottie served as the SWFAS publicity chair for many years. She and Jack also managed the monthly printing and mailing of this newsletter for much of that time.

During those years, Dottie participated in our field activities including field days, picnics and archaeology digs. Her name appears in many of the SWFAS Craighead Laboratory excavation reports. Craighead Lab at Collier County Museum in Naples participates in all the major Museum events there, such as Old Florida Day. Dottie was always to be found on the front porch public fairs where she greeted our many visitors, explaining the Lab and SWFAS activities.

Dottie and Jack moved back to St. Louis in October 2010 to be with their children and their families. Jack can be reached at: 12335 West Bend Lane, Apt



Dottie Thompson at Craighead Laboratory during Collier County Museum's "Old Florida Day" on March 17, 2006.

236, St. Louis, MO 63128. His phone is 314-849-6936, email at JWTDLT@aol.com.

Jack Harvey and the Lab Rats wrote this tribute to Dorothy. SWFAS President Annette Snapp added that "Both Dottie and Jack made me feel welcome the moment I arrived at my first SWFAS meeting, which was something I really appreciate. She will be sorely missed by many, many friends."

Upcoming at SWFAS

March: Barron Gift Collier 1873-1939

David Southall, Curator of Education of the Collier County Museum, will talk about the life of Collier's County's founder, Barron Gift Collier.

Raised in "genteel poverty" in post Civil War Tennessee, Barron Gift Collier quit school at the age of 16 to work as a railroad freight agent. He left Memphis for New York in 1893 already a successful businessman with streetcar advertising franchises in 24 Southern cities. By the age of 22 he had made his first million dollars.

Learn about the accomplishments of this resourceful, successful, and generous man who became the founder of modern Collier County.

Randell-- continued from left

Calusa Heritage Day takes place at the Calusa Heritage Trail, with free parking provided across the street from the trail at the Pineland Marina. Access to the Marina will be via Pineland Road, north on Robert Road, and west

on Caloosa Drive. Admission for the day is \$5 for adults, children under 12 free. All proceeds benefit the RRC's mission to teach about and preserve our Calusa legacy. For additional information, 239-283-2157.

Trustees and Officers Approved at January Annual Meeting

The following slate of Officers and Trustee was approved by the general membership at the January 19 SWFAS meeting:

Recording Secretary: Kathryn Betz
Treasurer: Charlie Strader
Membership Secretary: Charlie Strader

OFFICERS:

President: Annette Snapp
First Vice President: Meghan Prenderghast
Second Vice President: Alison Elgart

SWFAS Trustees for the upcoming year are: Tom Franchino, Jim Oswald, Matthew Schuld, Paul Backhouse, Theresa Schober, Matthew Betz, Betsy Perdichizzi, Liz Clement.

SWFAS Newsletter by E-Mail

If you're online, you can get the SWFAS newsletter sent to you as a PDF via e-mail. Many SWFAS members have already made the switch -- it saves quite a bit on printing and postage costs. If you would like to get the newsletter by e-mail, please note it on the sign-in sheet, e-mail Charlie Strader (cesexplor@aol.com) or let Charlie, Annette Snapp or Karen Nelson know at the next meeting.

About SWFAS

The Directorate:

President - Annette Snapp
1st VP - Meghan Prendergast
2nd VP - Alison Elgart
Recording Secretary - Kathryn Betz
Treasurer - Charlie Strader
Membership Secretary - Charlie Strader

Trustees:

Paul Backhouse, Matthew Betz, Liz Clement, Tom Franchino, Jim Oswald, Matthew Schuld, Betsy Perdichizzi, Theresa Schober
Trustee Emeritus: John Beriault

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).

February 2011 Newsletter

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society
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