



## Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) May 2018 Newsletter

### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER** by John Furey, M.A., RPA



Our SWFAS Newsletter runs from October to May while our presentations run from November to April. This May we have the FAS 70th Annual Meeting and then we finally get the summer off. We continue to book quality and informative speakers for our speaker series and present topics of great interest in both local history and archaeology. Your annual dues and donations are an important part of our maintaining this ability. I would like to thank all our SWFAS members for their support and those that attended our presentations and supported SWFAS this year. Our December field trip is usually to a local archaeological/historical venue after which we go to lunch: this year it will be "special" so you should plan to attend. It will be announced later this

year. Have a great summer and see you in the fall.

### **NEWSLETTER HELP**

The SWFAS Newsletter is always looking for original archaeological/anthropological articles from authors to publish as well as articles of interest to the general membership. Did you take a trip this summer to visit or work at a site, or a museum; please write about your trip and share the experience with us. If you have articles that you wish to have published in the newsletter, please submit them to me at [jffurey@charter.net](mailto:jffurey@charter.net). Thanks.

### **JANET GOODING AWARDED A 2018 FAS CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT**



On Saturday May 12, 2018 Janet Gooding was awarded a 2018 Florida Anthropological Society Certificate of Achievement at the 70th Annual FAS meeting at St. Petersburg, Florida. Janet is a long time SWFAS member and deserves this recognition. Congratulations Janet! Janet was unable to personally attend the meeting and the award was presented by FAS President Jason Wenzel at the FAS 70th Annual Meeting in Saint Petersburg, Florida and reads as follows:

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) nominates Janet Gooding for a Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) Certificate of Achievement for her twenty-three years of service to SWFAS. Since joining SWFAS in 1994, Jan has been a tireless worker, volunteering both in the field at excavations and at the SWFAS-staffed and

supported Craighead Archaeology Laboratory at the Collier County Museum in Naples. She has educated, excavated, screened, cleaned, and catalogued!

Jan has assisted in field excavations and laboratory analysis of a number of archaeological sites including Estero Island in Lee County, Horse Creek Camp, Old Marco Inn, Buschelman, Heineken Hammock, Margood and Goodland in Collier County, and Mt. Elizabeth in Martin County. A self-proclaimed "lab rat", Jan works weekly at the Craighead Lab in season and has generously donated funds for upgrading computer equipment and lab furnishings as well as supporting radiocarbon dating at the Horse Creek Camp site. Jan participates in SWFAS fundraisers and has represented SWFAS at the Collier County Museum's annual Old Florida Days.

Jan's fun, positive personality is a benefit to the field and lab environment, and her ideas and contributions have greatly enhanced SWFAS' ability to meet its goals of increasing archaeological knowledge in the Southwest Florida area.

On Sunday May 13th SWFAS President John Furey personally called and informed Janet of her FAS Award. An award ceremony at the Craighead Archaeological Laboratory will be held this Fall to personally award it to Janet.

## HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

### THE CRAIGHEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL LABORATORY AT THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM



In 1987, 31 years ago, the local field office of Dr. Frank Craighead was moved to the Collier County Museum to save it from being demolished. There it was restored and repurposed as the SWFAS Archaeological Laboratory. In November of 1992, 26 years ago, it was officially dedicated and has been in use by SWFAS since its installation at the museum. If you have not visited the lab and talked to “The Lab Rats”, please stop by to see these dedicated SWFAS members. The Craighead Archaeological Laboratory is an integral part of the SWFAS presence here in Southwest Florida. The Museum has just completed updating the siding, porch and roof, so stop by, visit the Museum, and see the archaeological materials on display at the Lab.

### THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUMS



The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) has long been a supporter of the Collier County Museums and the Craighead Archaeological Laboratory at Naples has been staffed by SWFAS volunteers and in operation there since 1987. We salute the many volunteers that, through their many donated hours, help make the museums a great place to visit. The Collier County System consists of a group of five museums: The Collier County Museum in Naples, The Marco Island Historical Museum on Marco Island, the Naples Depot Museum in Naples, the Museum of the Everglades in Everglades City and the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch in Immokalee. There are wonderful places to visit and to take your visitors to. These

museums each offer new and interesting exhibits as well as presentations by local experts on varying topics. We recommend that you become an e-mail subscriber to stay current on their various offerings. Over the Summer they are offering several interesting exhibits and presentations that offer a better understanding of Southwest Florida history. Please go to <https://www.colliermuseums.com/> to sign up and to see these programs.

### 70th FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY (FAS) MEETING, ST. PETERSBURG, FL

The 70th annual FAS meeting was held the weekend of May 11, 12 and 13 in St. Petersburg, Florida. SWFAS attendees were Theresa Schober, Board Member and FAS Chapter Representative, John Furey, SWFAS President, George Luer and Annette Snapp. Friday, May 11 was a day of all-day meetings that culminated in a FAS evening Reception at the 3 Daughters Brewing Company. Attendees got to sample locally made beer and cider as well as wine with salad and sliders accompanied by games and music.

On Saturday, May 12th the halls at the Student Center of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP) were filled with displays of books, replicas of Native American pottery, tools and weapons as well as clothing and companies that cater to archaeological technology. From 8am to 4pm the various papers and panel discussions were held that consisted of a wide range of archaeological topics. Participants got to choose those topics that were of interest to them. The papers I (John Furey) attended did not disappoint me. At 4pm the FAS Board met.

From 6pm to 9pm the FAS Banquet and awards ceremony was held. The FAS noted many individuals for awards, one of which was a Certificate of Achievement for Janet Gooding from SWFAS. After dinner participants were treated to a fantastic keynote speech by Dr. John Michael Francis titled “Even The Devil Couldn’t Read This”. He is compiling information about the individuals that traveled to the New World with the various Conquistadores from early archives in Spain and has created a website called [laflorida.org](http://laflorida.org) to disseminate this data. SWFAS members got to meet several former SWFAS speakers and one from next year’s schedule. The conference was well attended and highly informative. I recommend that FAS members that have not attended a conference plan to attend one in the future. Next year the

conference will be held in Crystal River and for the 72nd Annual Conference, SWFAS will be the local hosts in Naples/Marco Island. We will be looking for volunteers to assist us at this meeting and it will be your opportunity to attend an FAS Annual Meeting.

**SWFAS ON LINE REMINDER**

<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

On February 25, 2017 SWFAS was one of the sponsors that brought the unique program “Laboring in the Fields of the Lord” to Florida Southwestern College in Ft. Myers, Florida. The title was taken from a book that Jerald Milanich published in 1999 and this program consists of ten lectures by five renowned professors who are experts in their field. The five professors are: Jerald Milanich, J. Michael Francis, George Aaron Broadwell, John E. Worth and Rochelle Marrinan. Each gave a morning and an afternoon lecture on different aspects of the natives in Northern Florida at the time of European contact and the Spanish Mission System. These lectures were recorded and we present them on our SWFAS on-line website. If you did not have the opportunity to attend this program please make the time to see this on line. If you did have the opportunity to attend this is an excellent chance to relive them over the summer. We are making the SWFAS website as user friendly as possible and as an archaeological/anthropological resource and repository for you to use. 2018 is the first year that we have had this website and we welcome any of your comments and suggestions to help improve it.

**2018-2019 SWFAS PRELIMINARY SPEAKERS PROGRAM**

**2018**

NOVEMBER 14, 2018	DAVID SOUTHALL	THE CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HERR HOUSE
DECEMBER 8, 2018		SWFAS FIELD TRIP - LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER

**2019**

JANUARY 16, 2019	THERESA SCHOBERT	THE MAKING OF THE DOCUMENTARY “ESCAMPABA, THE KINGDOM OF CARLOS
FEBRUARY 20, 2019	BLACK HISTORY MONTH JARRETT EADY	EARLY BLACK SETTLERS IN FORT MYERS
MARCH 20, 2019	ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT	PALM BEACH COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGY
APRIL 17, 2019	WILLIAM LOCASCIO	THE BELLE GLADE SITES
MAY 2019		FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY 71st ANNUAL MEETING CRYSTAL RIVER, FLORIDA

*NOTE: Some titles are tentative.*

**ARTICLES**

**SARASOTA: ZARA ZOTA, ZARA SOTA, SARAZOTA**



Sarasota, no matter how you spell it, is a short drive to our North, has an interesting archaeological history. A great place to visit is the Palmer Mound at historic Spanish Point. Named after Bertha Palmer, the site was on her estate named Osprey Point, and was the first property to be named on the National Register of Historic Places in Sarasota County. It is a short day-trip from Lee and Collier Counties and well worth the visit. Similar to the Mound House, it features a shell midden cut in half and you can view the levels and artifacts. Other great places to visit in Sarasota are the New College and the Ringling Museum.

## MRS. POTTER PALMER: THE LEGENDARY LADY

From *Historic Spanish Point* at <http://www.historicspanishpoint.org/history/palmer/>



She dined with royalty, socialized with captains of industry, enjoyed close connections to the White House, and had a good head for business. She raised children and enjoyed her grandchildren, buried a beloved husband, and chaired the Board of Lady Managers for Chicago's World's Columbian Exposition. Mrs. Potter Palmer also loved Sarasota. She was heard to say that the bay reminded her of the Bay of Naples, Italy.

In 1910 Bertha Palmer made her first impact on Sarasota history and on the Spanish Point homestead. The Chicago socialite and widow of Potter Palmer came to Sarasota to establish a winter estate. She purchased thousands of acres for cattle ranching, citrus groves, and real estate development. The Webb homestead was part of the land she chose for her 350-acre estate which she named "Osprey Point." She preserved the pioneer buildings and connected them with lavish formal gardens and lawns.

Many of these garden elements have been restored at Historic Spanish Point. The classical columns of her Pergola & Sunken Garden still glow in the Florida sun with vibrant bougainvillea tightly hugging their bases, an aqueduct meanders through the tropical foliage with its waters flowing over a shell cascade into a reflecting pool, and a tall classic portal serenely stands over a lush green lawn. The Pergola & Sunken Garden is a popular location for wedding ceremonies.

Mrs. Palmer's varied business interests in Sarasota may have contributed to the land boom and further development of the gulf coast. One of these interests was cattle ranching. As a member of the Florida State Livestock Association, she operated a 15,000 acre ranch she called Meadow Sweet Pastures. New techniques and innovations in the field of cattle ranching improved production; one of these was the use of large concrete vats where the animals were "dipped" in medicines and insect repellants. Meadowsweet Pastures was acquired by the State of Florida and is now a substantial part of the Myakka River State Park.

Bertha Palmer died of breast cancer at age 68 in May of 1918 while here at her winter estate. The Palmer family maintained Osprey Point and in 1959, her grandson Gordon Palmer sponsored the three year excavation by Ripley P. Bullen of the archaeological site which now encompasses the museum at Historic Spanish Point. Gordon's widow, Janis along with Potter Palmer IV and other family members encouraged the nomination of Spanish Point to the National Register. In 1976 it became the first site in Sarasota County to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1980, the Palmer heirs donated the National Register site to Gulf Coast Heritage Association.

## INDIAN MOUND UNWRAPPED AT HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

from *Florida Rambler* at <http://www.floridarambler.com/historic-florida-getaways/historic-spanish-point-osprey-fl/>



OSPREY, FL — There never were any Spaniards at Spanish Point. But archaeological evidence at Spanish Point shows there were plenty of prehistoric people who lived here in relative prosperity, well fed on the bounty of the Gulf of Mexico, as long as 5,000 years ago. And you can actually see that evidence. Between 1959 and 1962, scientists started digging around Spanish Point, excavating burial mounds and shell middens, a landfill of sorts for domestic discards.

There are shell middens all over Florida, but this is the only one that was cut in half, enclosed in glass and put on public display. This "Window To The Past" is enclosed within the walls of a small museum where ancient history is exposed in words and pictures. And then you look through the glass and imagine what life was like thousands of years ago. The excavation is a cutaway of life. Amid the pile of shells, you'll find remnants of prehistoric pottery and tools the Indians used in their daily life. Although some of the more significant archaeological finds have been removed for display and study at the Smithsonian and the University

of Florida's Museum of Natural History, displays at "Window to The Past" effectively tell the story of these early residents based on those studies.

### **The Palmers and the Webbs – It's all in the name**

The Palmer name is ubiquitous in Sarasota County. Everywhere you look, there are streets, parks and subdivisions named after the wealthy Chicago family who came here in 1910 to develop this lush subtropical paradise on the Gulf Coast into housing, ranches and citrus groves.

The matriarch of the Palmer clan, socialite Bertha Honore Palmer, was the widow of Potter Palmer, a prominent Chicago real estate developer and cofounder of Marshall Field and Company. Eight years after her husband's death, Bertha Palmer purchased more than 80,000 acres of land around Sarasota, including 30 acres belonging to Florida pioneers John and Eliza Webb, who established a farm on the site in 1867 and named it Spanish Point.

The name was derived not from Spanish explorers, as you might expect, but rather after a Spanish trader the Webbs had met in Key West while looking for a homestead to settle in Florida. The trader told them of an idyllic coastal location that rose high above what is now Little Sarasota Bay. The Webb family farmed the land for more than 40 years before it was purchased by Bertha Palmer in 1910.

### **Bertha Palmer's winter estate**



Bertha Palmer selected the Webb farm as the anchor of her 350-acre winter estate, where she could live while overseeing the development of her other lands in Sarasota County. She left largely intact the shell middens and burial mounds on the property, as well as the Webb homestead, outbuildings buildings and chapel, while building her own home and gardens on a ridge above the bay. Palmer developed the gardens in keeping with the layout of the original homestead, incorporating the farms buildings into a tropical landscape punctuated with pergolas, classic Greek columns, lawns and flower gardens. An early aqueduct that transported water for the Webb homestead and farmlands can still be seen among the rich foliage and flowers that Palmer added to the property, which she called Osprey Point.

### **Meadow Sweet Ranch**

A few miles from Osprey Point, Palmer carved out a 15,000-acre cattle ranch along the Myakka River called Meadow Sweet Pastures. Mrs. Palmer's intent was to make the ranch a laboratory for improving cattle production. Under her tutelage, the Meadow Sweet was responsible for numerous innovations in cattle ranching, including large concrete vats where cows were "dipped" in medicines and insect repellents. Meadow Sweet Pastures was aquired by the State of Florida and is now a substantial part of Myakka River State Park.

If you visit the park's Canopy Walk and climb the wooden tower, you overlook a broad area of the ranch, including open grasslands within Myakka's forests that were once cattle pastures. You can access these old pastures via undeveloped park roads that are open to hikers and bicyclists. Much of the area north of Myakka River State Park remains in agricultural hands, and the innovative spirit of today's ranchers and farmers is still alive. On a recent visit to the weekly farmers market at the Crowley Museum and Nature Center outside of the North Gate of the state park, I discovered experimental vineyards that are actually producing wine and a fervent organic culture promoting unpasteurized dairy products, including goat cheeses that were fabulous.

### **Back to Spanish Point**

The descendants of Potter and Bertha Palmer recognized the historic importance of Spanish Point and allowed the 1959 archaeological excavation of the site, as well as encouraging its designation to the National Register of Historic Places, eventually turning over the 30-acre core of the property to Gulf Coast Heritage Association, which is largely responsible for its restoration and preservation. Their hard work comes to life when you visit the property, which you'd almost miss driving past on nearby Tamiami Trail unless you know it is there.

It's worth a stop, not just for its historical significance but for the aesthetics of the many gardens, hiking paths and boardwalks that take you through multiple ecosystems — pine flatwoods, tropical hardwood hammocks and live oak, mangrove swamps, tidal marshes and coastal beaches throughout the property. Not to be ignored are the carefully nurtured gardens, including the Mrs. Palmer's private Sunken Garden and the Butterfly Garden, often rented for private parties and weddings, as well as the old Osprey School (now the visitor center) and Mary's Chapel. Private tours are also available, although reservations are required months in advance.

### **Annual Events at Historic Spanish Point**

Holly Days and Mangrove Lights – end of November through December — Homestead buildings and gardens are decorated in holiday lights. Hours extended on Thursdays and Fridays and costumed performers on weekends.

### **Visiting Historic Spanish Point**

Visit Historic Spanish Point seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. You can find more information on the Historic Spanish Point web site

337 North Tamiami Trail

Osprey, FL (about halfway between Venice and Sarasota)

Phone: 941-966-5214

General admission is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

### **SWFAS OFFICERS FOR THE 2018 CALANDER YEAR**

#### **Officers**

President: John Furey

First Vice-President: Jim Oswald

Second Vice-President: Elizabeth Clement

Secretary: Susan Harrington

Treasurer: Charlie Strader

#### **Trustees**

First of 3-year term:

Jan Gooding

Amanda Townsend

Tiffany Bannworth

Third of 3-year term:

Theresa Schober

Mary Southall

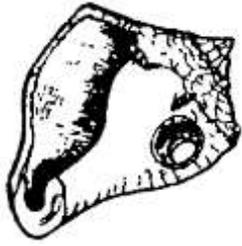
William Locascio

***Find us on Facebook at Southwest Florida Archaeological Society!***

***Check out our new website at <http://swflarchaeology.org/>***

### **SWFAS AND FAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

We encourage those interested in Florida archaeology to become members of The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS). Annual dues are due in January and membership applications to both organizations are attached. Membership in the FAS provides you with four annual volumes of *The Florida Anthropologist* and occasional newsletters on anthropological events in Florida in addition to the annual statewide meeting. More information on FAS can be found online at: [www.fasweb.org](http://www.fasweb.org). Membership in SWFAS offers you a local series of talks on archaeological and anthropological subjects that you can attend. The SWFAS monthly newsletter keeps you up to date on local events as well as other important archaeological topics. We urge you to support both with your membership. All of the SWFAS Lecture Series are open to the public at no charge.



# JOIN US!

## The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) was founded in 1980 as a not-for profit corporation to provide a meeting place for people interested in the area's past.

Our goals are to:

- Learn more of the area's history
- Create a place for sharing of this information
- Advocate for preservation of cultural resources

Its members include professional and amateur archaeologists and interested members of the general public. Members come from all walks of life and age groups. They share a lively curiosity, a respect for the people who preceded them here, and a feeling of responsibility for the conservation of the places and objects they left behind.

The Society holds monthly meetings between October and April, attracting speakers who are in the forefront of archaeological and historical research. Occasionally members join in trips to historical and archaeological sites.

A monthly newsletter, Facebook page, and website keep members abreast of our events and happenings.

The organization is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, a statewide organization that publishes quarterly newsletters and a journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*, and holds an annual conference.

**I want to help The Southwest Florida Archaeology Society preserve and interpret Florida's heritage!**

**Name (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/Town** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:**

**Individual (\$20)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sustaining Individual (\$50)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Family (\$35)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student (\$5)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Life (\$500)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation to Support SWFAS Speakers and Programs** \_\_\_\_\_

**Skills, training, interests:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Southwest Archaeological Society. I further release from any and all liability due to accident and injury to myself, dependents and any property owners cooperating with the society.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check out to SWFAS and mail to:**

**Charlie Strader  
SWFAS Treasurer  
27655 Kent Road  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135**

**REV. 12052017**

# FAS Membership

Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals who are willing to abide by the [Florida Anthropological Society Statement of Ethical Responsibilities](#), which can be found on our website: [fasweb.org](http://fasweb.org). Membership is for one year.



## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Student*	\$15
Regular	\$30
Family	\$35
Institutional	\$30
Sustaining	\$100
Patron	\$1000
Benefactor	\$2500

Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate and high school students. A photocopy of your student ID must accompany payment

- Add \$25.00 for foreign addresses

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

FAS Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make a donation to:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dot Moore/FAS Student Grant Fund      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Florida Archaeology Month Account

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ [Florida Anthropologist](#) Monograph Fund      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [Florida Anthropologist](#) Endowment Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Florida Anthropological Society.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Membership Form and Dues Payment to:**  
Florida Anthropological Society  
c/o Pat Balanzategui  
P. O. Box 1135 - St. Augustine, FL 32085

**Membership dues can be paid with PayPal.**  
To submit your membership form electronically and pay with PayPal, go to the Membership form page on our website: [fasweb.org](http://fasweb.org).

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