

# Newsletter



## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida 33941

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Arthur R. Lee, editor

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MAY, 1988

### May meeting

#### **CALUSA ADAPTATION TO MARITIME ENVIRONMENT SUBJECT OF PRESENTATION BY ZOOARCHAEOLOGIST**

Southwest Florida's Calusa Indians had a hierarchical society, followed many of the practices of urbanism and carried out monumental public works -- without any apparent base in agriculture, the usual economic foundation for such a civic life style. Instead, they drew their sustenance for the most part from the rivers, bays and inlets of their kingdom, and their other material needs from the adjacent fields and forests.

Accommodation of the Calusa to their maritime environment as revealed by examination of the evidences they left behind will be discussed at the May 19 meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society by Zooarchaeologist Karen Jo Walker of the Florida State Museum, Gainesville. Subject of her presentation will be "Zooarchaeological Perspectives on Southwest Florida's Aboriginal Maritime Adaptation." An informal workshop session will follow.

The meeting, in the Community room of the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Miss Walker holds degrees from the Universities of Florida and Georgia, and a certificate from the University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain. She has been employed as analyst, curatorial assistant and project zooarchaeologist. Archaeological experience includes participation in various capacities at a score of sites and laboratories ranging from Israel to Indiana

### **GARAGE SALE CASH REGISTER RANG TO TUNE OF NEARLY \$500**

The needle of SWFAS' money tank is no longer resting on the left hand peg, Treasurer Jack Thompson reports after tallying the results from the April 23 garage sale.

The event, staged in the parking lot of the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers on Tamiami Trail North, Naples, netted \$491.31, Thompson says, to which \$35 was added from contributions of Alice Ash and Wayne and Shirley House, who could not attend. An extra \$28 was realized from raffling a book at the previous monthly meeting.

Merchandise, well chosen for customer appeal by SWFAS members and sympathizers, was displayed by Sale Director Barbara Logie on tables provided by B&B Builders Supply and Charlie Strader's truck.

Logie is planning another sale for next fall, and asks members to keep it in mind when disposing of unwanted belongings.

Helping Barbara at the sale were James and John Beriault, Virginia Beville, Walt and Mary Buschelman, Al and Isabelle Felsberg, Buck Konen, Art and Lynn Lee, Joe and Freda Long, Kate Muldoon, Pat Snearley, Gail and Charlie Strader, Dorothy and Jack Thompson, Mary Ruth Winchell, and Eleanore Young

## SWFAS REPRESENTED BY BERIAULT IN TWO PAPERS AT FAS MEET

The results of decapage of two sites in the Pelican Bay area by SWFAS crews a year ago were described to those attending the annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society at Winter Park May 6-8 by President John Beriault, who also co-authored a paper on Galt Island with Dr. William H. Marquardt. The Galt Island report was presented by Dr. Marquardt.

Describing the Pelican Bay sites as temporary stops, Beriault told his audience that analysis of the material from the so-called Triple Lakes site by workers at the Craighead laboratory showed that some 215 oysters and 60 clams had been consumed there.

Dr. Marquardt said that there is "every indication from the current owners of Galt Island that what remains of the site complex will be preserved as is, and investigated carefully by professionally-trained archaeologists."

"In fast-developing southwest Florida we are increasingly in a position to argue to developers that archaeological sites are assets, not liabilities," he stated. "Archaeology is as newsworthy, positive, and broadly appealing as it is scientifically and historically important. The benefits -- enrichment of local heritage, good public relations, and contributions to scientific and historical knowledge -- are well worth the investment," he concluded.

Two pioneers of Florida archaeology, Gordon Willey and Irving Rouse, were honored at the meeting, FAS' 40th. Rouse, 74, is a professor and curator at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., and is remembered for a 300-page monograph which followed a survey of the Indian River area in 1944. He could not attend the meeting, but Dr. Willey, 75, now semi-retired as a professor at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., and his wife were present. He is author of a 600-page book which pulled together information available on the pre-history of the area at the time he surveyed the Gulf Coast in 1940.

Thirty-one papers were presented Saturday and Sunday morning.

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SWFAS members attending, other than Beriault, were Charlie and Gail Strader, Dorothy and Jack Thompson and Art and Lynn Lee.

## ANTHROPOLOGIST NAMED TO POSITION IN COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

Nancy E. Olson has been named Education Curator for the Collier County Museum, a position in which she has contact with SWFAS on two levels -- in working with volunteers and in the field of education.

While at the Craighead laboratory SWFAS members are considered as volunteers so the museum can get credit for their hours of work in connection with projects requiring local contributions, and Mrs. Olson has contact with Dr. Paul Benedict, the Society's education committee chairman, for joint projects.

From an Air Force family, Mrs. Olson has lived over much of the southern United States and Germany, and studied at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, and the University of Texas at Austin, where she received a B.A. degree in anthropology. She has worked as laboratory assistant with the Historic Sites branch of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Service, and has done field and survey work at Lubbock and Conroe, Texas. Before coming to Naples, she was director of the Heritage museum of Montgomery County, Texas for three years.

## SOCIETY URGES ACTION ON LAND ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

Letters supporting a proposed law which would provide for state purchase of lands important archaeologically have been sent to area representatives J. Keith Arnold and Mary Ellen Hawkins by SWFAS President John Beriault.

The proposal, House Bill 717, is entitled The Emergency Archaeological Property Acquisition Act of 1988. It would establish means to purchase archaeological properties of major significance to protect them from destruction by "development, vandalism or natural events" when time will not permit their being saved through normal procedures.

Following board of directors action May 10, letters also were sent to the representatives urging passage of House Bill 1284 which would forbid pumping wastewater underground if within 25 miles of any natural spring. The action is intended to protect the state's many springs, including archaeologically-important Warm Mineral Springs, which is threatened by a commercial sewage treatment plant's deep injection well 3.5 miles from the spa and pre-historic site.

## POTTERY WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR CRAIGHEAD LAB MAY 25

A pottery workshop is scheduled for the Craighead laboratory starting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 25.

A collection of South Florida sherds loaned by Bob Carr of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy will be used by President John Beriault in the session.

The workshop will mark resumption of scheduled activities at the lab, which are being suspended the preceding 10-day period to permit maximum SWFAS participation in the major dig at Pine Island. Starting May 26, laboratory sessions -- cleaning, sorting, and analysis -- will be held at 10 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and at 2 p.m. Saturdays.

All members are welcome to enjoy the excellent working conditions and surroundings, including the resident Bob White and pileated woodpecker; lack of experience is no drawback since all activities are guided.

### PINE ISLAND LAB OFFERS LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

A field laboratory is being set up at the Pine Island exploration and will be under professional supervision, offering SWFAS members an excellent opportunity to learn lab techniques. Members are urged to put in as much time at the lab as possible, regardless of prior notification.

Laboratory-quality plastic covering has been installed in the sink area, whose drainboard has been extended to cover the wall area up to the drying rack. Meanwhile, Walt Buschelman and his son Dan have removed the sod from the wash area at the side of the building and placed it on the smaller mound between the lab and the Collier County Museum building in preparation for the museum's paving it, along with a Craighead memorial orchid garden.

Laboratory crews have completed substantive work on analysis of material from the Pelican Bay survey of a year ago, and have started washing material from the Helneken Hammock site. Walt and Mary Buschelman, Jean Belknap, Alice Ash and Virginia Read have been regular workers. Charlie Strader has brought to the lab some of the SWFAS library material.

April 21 a SWFAS team skillfully handled the invasion of 200 Pine Ridge Middle School students who visited the Museum. Coordination between the museum and Education committee Chairman Paul Benedict saw to division of the group into smaller units; a photo display was set up; and a table was put on the porch from which Jack Thompson's show-and-tell description of the lab and SWFAS was given. The interior was arranged so the visitors could see what went on there, and a crew was washing artifacts in the screens at the side of the building.

### DATEBOOK

\* May 12-22. Exploration of mound site at residence of Col. Randell on Pine Island with Dr. Marquardt. This will be a major series of digs and it will need a sizeable number of volunteers.

\* May 19. Monthly meeting of SWFAS at First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples; 7:30 p.m.

\* May 25. Pottery workshop at Craighead laboratory; 6:30 p.m. All welcome.

\* May 26. Resumption of scheduled work sessions at the Craighead lab. They will be held at 10 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and 2 p.m. Saturdays. Help is needed.

\* June 7. Board of Directors meeting at residence of Eleanore Young, 4956 Esplanade, Bonita Springs; 6:30 p.m.. All SWFAS members welcome.

\* June 16. Monthly meeting of SWFAS at First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples; 7:30 p.m.

### WELCOME TO SWFAS!

The society has welcomed to membership Mary Lou Missall, North Ft. Myers; Delmar and Joyce Moon of St. James City and Pat Snearley of Pineland.

## NEW PERSPECTIVE ON FLORIDA'S PALEO PERIOD

Daniel, I. Randolph Jr., and Michael Wisenbaker; Harney Flats: A Florida Paleo-Indian Site; Baywood Publishing, Farmingdale, N.Y., 198 pp., \$24.99.

Put a musical theme in the hands of a fiddler and it becomes a country jig; put in the mind of a Beethoven, it becomes a symphony. Put a collection of stone tools in some hands and you get a run-of-the-mill site report. Put it in the care of a team like Daniel and Wisenbaker and you get a thoughtful overview of the paleo-Indian scene.

A survey preliminary to salvage work done in connection with construction of the I-75 highway turned up a promising paleo-lithic site in a Hillsborough county area called Harney Flats. The excavated area, 967 square meters, ranks the endeavor as the largest Paleo site in the southeastern United States. Findings were significant: A lack of exotic cherts among the chipped stone, unlike many other paleo sites of the East; the near absence of fluting in Suwannee points; lack of gravers; infrequency of hafted teardrop endscrapers; and a heavy representation of large, well-made plano-convex unifaces.

### Temper, Temper

During the dig, workers discovered the base of a roughed-out Suwannee-type stone point, which had been broken, and a bulldozer turned up its matching tip 5.5 meters away. Why this great separation? The author speculates that the flint-knapper lost his temper when it broke in his hands, dropped the preform and threw the broken tip. He writes that this has been noted on other digs and cites the delicious expression another scientist has coined for the phenomenon: "emotional displacement".

However, as important to the book as the physical findings at the site were the observations gathered from the wide range of written sources consulted; conclusions included:

A need to broaden the current perception of the paleo-Indians' economy as consisting of a single-minded pursuit of now-extinct megafauna such as the mastodon and giant bison and to substitute a picture of a people using a wide variety of foodstuffs including those of vegetable origin and small game and, most important, a need to regard those who made the Suwannee points of Florida as worthy of examination on their own terms, rather than as carbon copies of the manufacturers of the western fluted points.

## GOOD VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION EXPECTED FOR PINE ISLAND DIGS

More than 100 individuals have expressed an interest in helping with investigation of the extensive mound complex on the property of Col. Donald Randell on Pine Island, Dr. William H. Marquardt reports. He is director of the Southwest Florida Project, Institute of Archaeology and Paleoenvironmental Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville.

First excavation is scheduled to start May 12; press day is set for May 20, and holes will be filled May 22. Many SWFAS members are expected to participate.

An archaeological investigation of a proposed development area at Bokeella April 16-17 revealed no significant sites, though historically it is impressive.

## WORKMAN DEMONSTRATES NATIVE AMERICAN CRAFTS AT SWFAS MEETING

Arts of the past were brought to life April 21 at the monthly meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society by Richard Workman of Fort Myers, environmental consultant and student of native American crafts.

Using Florida chert, Workman showed how pressure flaking was used in the manufacture of points, and gave an impressive demonstration of the effectiveness of conch axes by cutting a section of gumbo limbo trunk with a busycon chopper.

Another probable use for conch shells, he pointed out, was for signalling; he demonstrated versatility of the instrument by playing Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" on one. Workman is author of a book on coastal plant communities Growing Native.

Amendments to the Society's by-laws were passed increasing dues and providing for contributing and life memberships.