

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida 33941

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August meeting

GLIMPSE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S ARCHAIC PAST TO BE GIVEN SWFASERS

One of the rare glimpses that have been offered into Southwest Florida's archaic past will be described to SWFAS members at their monthly meeting August 18 at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Fort Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail north, Naples, at 7:30 p.m.

President John Berlault will talk about the salvage excavation of the Bay West site a short distance north of Naples, in the spring of 1980. The site was discovered when dredging equipment removing peat from a cypress pond turned up human bones. SWFAS members and other volunteers, working with professional archaeologists, recovered a quantity of skeletal material and artifacts, some of which are now lodged at the Collier County museum.

The site encompassed a mortuary area some 35 meters in diameter, and an adjacent lithic work space on higher ground. Dates of nearly 7,000 years B.P. were obtained from worked wooden objects by ^{14}C tests.

Results of the salvage work have been described in the Florida Anthropologist.

DIRT CONTENT DOWN, FUN CONTENT UP: GREAT AMERICAN WASH-IN SUCCESSFUL

Beneath the Craighead laboratory building sit five green plastic trays -- empty.

They had once contained bags of material from a half-dozen archaeological sites, some dating back several years. That material now is in new, clean, marked bags inside labeled boxes on shelves in a humidity-controlled atmosphere, ready for the next step -- analysis.

Seventeen SWFASers spent Sunday, July 24, washing the material, sipping the free soft drinks, lunching in the lab's air conditioning, reminiscing about the digs from which the artifacts came, and getting better acquainted.

Honors for coming farthest went to Shirley and Bud House of St. James City. Youngest was Brian Susdorf, 7, who accompanied his father Gary from Fort Myers.

The luckiest found one of the eight places around the new washing equipment which lets one sit down while washing and which was set up in the shade of the front porch. Gail and Charlie Strader toughed it out in the sun at the washing terrace where the old washing screens -- guaranteed to keep the feet wet and cool -- were set up. Walt Buschelman kept them supplied with material from, appropriately, the Strader site.

Washed material filled the lab's drying screens, the dozen plastic sorting boxes recently donated by Ray Seguin, and a large box full of plastic bags. It took the lab crew Tuesday and Thursday of the following week to dry and store the material.

Those who took part said they want to do it again. Big question is what it will be called: "Son of the Great American Wash-In", "Return of the Great American Wash-In", "Wash-In II"?

COLLIER GROWTH PLAN SUBMITTED WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION UNCHANGED

The board of Collier county commissioners has submitted to the state government a draft growth management plan including a brief section on archaeological resources.

In the plan section dealing with coastal management, it lists as an objective: "To protect historic and archaeological resources in Collier county." It proposes to adopt by August 1, 1990, regulations for "land alteration activities that ensure the conservation, sensitive re-use, and preservation of significant historic and archaeological resources."

In the interim, the plan proposes, there shall be no loss of historic or archaeological resources on county-owned property and historic resources on private property shall be protected. At a public hearing July 24 Art Lee requested that that section be amended to place archaeological resources on private land under the same umbrella as historic properties, but the board took no action on the suggestion.

The measure does provide:

That during the development review process, historic or archaeological sites shall be identified on site plans;

That the county shall establish waivers for certain setback and site planning requirements to accommodate historic sites;

That as an alternative to preserving archaeological sites the owner may allow their excavation by the state Division of Historic Resources "or the approved alternate" before development and that then "development may proceed without preserving the site;"

That the county shall accept donations of historic or archaeological sites, and;

That preserved archaeological sites may be used to satisfy setback, buffer strip or open space requirements.

Although the board passed the planning package to meet a deadline, and has submitted it to the State for approval, it has ordered county employees to re-write the Conservation and Coastal Lands management sections, which include the archaeological provisions, in deference to strong objections by environmentalists. There will be public hearings on those sections.

FAS PICKS JACKSONVILLE FOR SPRING MEETING

The next meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society's executive board will be Sept. 17. At the latest meeting it was decided to expand its newsletter to a quarterly publication, alternating dates with the Florida Anthropologist.

The board accepted the invitation of the Jacksonville Chapter to host the 1989 annual meeting, which probably will be held the third week in May. President John Sheets of the Northeast chapter said the meeting probably will be held in the heart of the city.

TOUR OF MARCO ISLAND SITES SET FOR AUGUST 21

Since well before the turn of the 20th century Marco Island has provided a window into pre-historic life in Southwest Florida.

As has been oft recounted, a pioneer settler, W.D. Collier, in 1895 found wood, cordage, and shell implements while digging garden muck on his property. British Col. C.D. Durnford, who had been exploring aboriginal sites near Naples, was quick to follow, and his findings aroused the interest of Archaeologist Frank Hamilton Cushing, then of the Bureau of American Ethnology, who then launched his well-known excavations.

These were the first of a long line of researchers to pick through the muck, sand and shell of the island, turning up material that has been influential in defining life of the area back some 5,000 years.

SWFAS members will follow the progress of this exploration Sunday, August 21, when they visit the famous sites -- some now concealed by buildings and pavement -- under the guidance of John Beriault. Rendezvous will be at the Craighead lab at 8 a.m., and car pooling has been suggested to shorten the line of cars winding through the resort area's streets. It is planned to lunch at Goodland.

VINEYARDS DIG CANCELLED

Excavation of a site at the Vineyards development northeast of Naples, originally set for August 14 and subsequently moved up, has been cancelled. Bob Carr of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, called in when the developer insisted on earlier action, discovered that deep plowing had so disturbed the shallow site that excavating a test pit was unwarranted.

OF TRIBE ENCOUNTER WITH SPANIARDS

With the ritual arrows driven into the top of the mound, 35 busycon cups were laid down at the end of the black drink purification ceremony and the celebrants walked away, not to return.

That was the scene revealed by the trowels of archaeologists under the direction of Jeffrey M. Mitchem of the Florida State Museum as they excavated Tatham site in north central Florida, and described by the archaeologist to SWFAS members at their July meeting. Three seasons of field work there ended December, 1986.

The mound originally was small, containing the remains of 25 individuals, important, to judge by the shell and copper articles buried with them, and dating to earlier than A.D.775. Above them was a dark stratum, apparently the result of decarnation that took place in a charnel house which had been burned. The mound had been left undisturbed, apparently for hundreds of years.

Then, researchers surmise, it was again pressed into service as contact with Spanish explorers brought death. Above the prehistoric burials were laid the remains of two victims of sword blows, then 74 who died from an apparent epidemic. They were laid in rows with their heads pointing north-northwest, except two who lay in the opposite direction, their high status attested by their ornaments: a new-born in the arms of its mother was laden with beads.

What did the Indians' black drink taste like?

Like tea, with a pine after-taste.

Archaeologists noticed *Ilex vomitoria*, the caffeine-rich base of the infusion, growing near the Tatham site, and sampled a brew from it.

It did not live up to its Latin name, they found, though they drank it only in modest quantities.

Among the articles found with the bodies were two quartz crystal pendants; quartz, the speaker reminded his audience, was believed by some Southeast Indians to be useful in warding off disease.

Other grave goods were fresh water shell from Georgia, a plaque believed to have been an archer's wrist guard, ground stone celts, a pendant of non-Floridian stone, a fragment of Spanish armor, the fossil of a large squash seed (the first evidence of squash cultivation in a Safety Harbor context), and Nueva Cadiz glass beads, dated, in that region, to between A.D.1515 and 1550.

Spanish incursions into the area were Narvaez in 1528 and de Soto in 1539; Mitchem assumes that the Indians' tragic contact was with de Soto.

After it, the evidence indicates, the site was abandoned.

DATEBOOK

*August 13 and every Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Craighead lab, cleaning and sorting of archaeological materials. Everyone's invited!

*August 16, 18 and every Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Craighead lab, working on materials from past digs. All welcome.

*August 17 and every Wednesday at the lab at 5:45 p.m., workshop on archaeological surveying led by Joe Long, currently using the plane table. You're welcome.

*August 18. Monthly meeting of SWFAS starting at 7:30 p.m. at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples.

*August 21. Field trip to archaeological sites on Marco Island. Rendezvous at Craighead lab at Collier county governmental complex at 8 a.m.

*Sept. 6. Board of directors meeting at the Craighead lab on the Collier County Museum grounds starting at 6:30 p.m. All members welcome.

*Sept. 15. Monthly meeting of SWFAS starting at 7:30 p.m. at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples.

LEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HONOR PINELAND RESEARCHERS

The work of those involved in the recent archaeological excavations of the Pineland mound on Pine Island was commended by the board of Lee County commissioners August 10.

The ceremony recognized the enterprise of Dr. William Marquardt of the Florida State Museum, the generous support of the property owners, Colonel Don and Pat Randell, and the labors of volunteers from the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. Nearly 1,800 man-hours were worked, excavating five areas and operating a field lab.

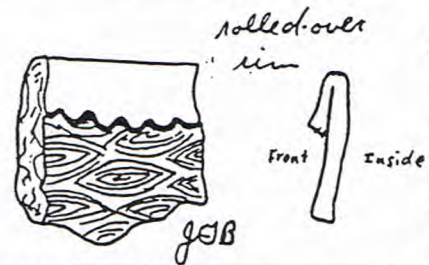
Dr. Marquardt, Col. Randell and Dr. Michael J. Hansinger, for SWFAS, received copies of a board resolution from the hands of Commissioner Mary Ann Wallace, who had visited the dig. Other commissioners present were Chairman Bill Sussell, John E. Manning and Donald Slisher. The honorees had been introduced by County Planning Head Bill Spikowski.

Col. Randell took the occasion to present to Dr. Marquardt a stock certificate worth nearly \$15,000 to help fund ongoing work in his Southwest Florida study.

After the presentation Dr. Marquardt showed slides describing the project.

THE POTSDHERDS WE DIG

Sherds of this sophisticated ware have been found near the Horse Creek campsite in association with Pinellas Plain and Glades Tooled pottery. It is Leon-Jefferson Complicated Stamped, "imported", according to John Berlault, from northern Florida in very late proto-historic to historic times (ca. A.D. 1450-1600), equivalent to the Glades IIIB-IIIC period.



THE FINE SCREEN

A handful of present and former SWFASers had a late night July 24, when the board of Collier county commissioners met to discuss a growth management plan. Speaking for the Sierra Club on water resources was Joe Long; growth criteria were the concern on Waylon and Mabel Wilson, and Art Lee tried to enlarge archaeological site protection provisions. The sections in which they were interested did not come up until after midnight.

SWFAS member and professional archaeologist Linda Robinson has been appointed to the Lee county planning commission by the board of county commissioners. She heads Archaeological Services, Inc., of Fort Myers, and has done a good deal of work in the Caribbean. Announcement of the appointment was made by Gloria M. Salgo of the county planning office.

The summer something-or-others have hit SWFAS. Of the regular crew at the Craighead laboratory Virginia Read is off on her usual summer stay in the north, Jean Belknap is back-packing somewhere in the northwest, Paul and Phyllis Benedict are in cooler climes, Walt Buschelman spent early July in Los Angeles, Alice Ash visited family in the northland in mid-month and Virginia Beville passed some happy days in Europe.

Al Felsberg is recovering from surgery, for which he and Isabelle cut short a trip to Great Britain.

Mary Ruth Winchell returned from a trip just in time to turn on the coffee pot for the July meeting. She says that the "Coffee Earn" is just about keeping up with refreshment costs.

GROUP CONTINUES SURVEY STUDIES

The board walk section just opposite the front door of the Craighead lab is three-sixteenths of an inch lower than a stretch about 75 feet away. That is probably the least important piece of information recently learned by SWFASers studying archaeological surveying under Joe Long. After having skipped a week to accommodate a meeting of Collier County commissioners, the group resumed with a session August 3 during which their plane table mapping uncovered the walk's minuscule irregularity. They plan to continue the program, meeting every Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome to join the eight to 10 who have been attending.

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 18

STARTING
9:30 A.M.

CRAIGHEAD
LABORATORY

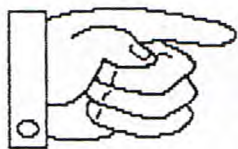
If you enjoyed the GREAT AMERICAN WASH-IN,
YOU'LL LOVE THE

SUPER SUNDAY SCRUB-UP



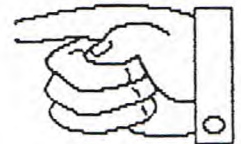
Artifacts to wash!
Free soft drinks!

Friends to see!



Bring your lunch
Eat in the cool
lab building!

Find the mystery
shells and win
PRIZES!



MUSEUM REST ROOMS WILL BE
OPEN!

CRAIGHEAD
LABORATORY

STARTING
9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 18