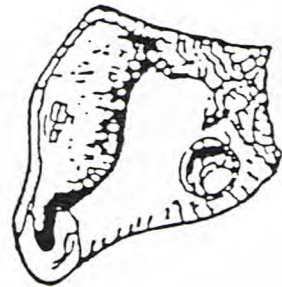


SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



A Chapter of the FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida, 33941

Travis F. Doering, editor

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FAS BOARD THANKS SWFAS FOR MEETING'S "GREAT SUCCESS"

The following resolution of the board of directors of the Florida Anthropological Society was contained in the organization's current newsletter:

"The FAS Board would like to publicly thank some of the individuals who helped make the 1990 FAS annual meeting a great success."

"To Charlie Strader and Art and Lynn Lee go our appreciation for organizing the meeting. The Conservancy Nature Center was a perfect setting for the meeting and thanks are extended to Dr. Keith Waterhouse for helping to arrange its availability. The FAS board would also like to offer its appreciation to Gail Strader, who expertly handled registration at the meeting; to the Program Committee (Linda Robinson, chair, and John Beriault) for the informative and stimulating line up of papers and presentations; to Eleanore and Bud Yound who arranged the sumptuous reception Friday evening and the welcome refreshments during the coffee breaks; to Dorothy Thompson, publicity; to Jack Thompson, finance chair; to Travis Doering, who handled the slide projectors and showed fortitude and perseverance in the face of adversity; and to Ron Jamro, who generously opened the Collier County Museum to conference goers on Sunday morning and hosted a delicious continental breakfast."

ADVANCEMENT OF BOTANY IN ARCHAEOLOGY RELATED

Progression of botanical archaeology to encompass man's interrelationship with the surrounding ecology was described to SWFAS members May 16 by Lee Newsom of the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Speaking at the organization's monthly meeting, she noted that initially the identification of wood remains, pollen, and fossil seeds was used to describe the environments in which prehistoric man lived.

Now, the doctoral candidate at the University of Florida said, botanical techniques also are tools in deciphering man's relationship to the floral world around him.

As an example, she cited walkways that were used for several thousand years in southwest England to cross wetlands (which later became bogs that preserved the wood of which the trackways were built).

When the area had forests of large trees, planks were made by quarter-sawing. But as the virgin stands were logged off, smaller trees were used, requiring the splitting of planks by another process.

That period was followed by one which saw the trackways made of a random assortment of brushwood, then another marked by the deliberate management of

President, Charlie Strader; first vice president, Linda S. Robinson; second vice president, Gary Susdorf; recording secretary, Barbara Logie; corresponding secretary, Lynn Lee; treasurer, Jack Thompson; trustees, Walt Buschelman, Wayne House, Art Lee, Joe Long, Gloria Sajgo, Eleanore Young, Dr. Keith Waterhouse, Anne Waterhouse; committees: John Beriault, field; Dorothy Thompson, public relations; Isabelle Feisberg, hospitality; education, Dr. Paul Benedict; laboratory, Walt Buschelman, Art Lee.

forests as trees were cut to encourage the growth of shoots (coppicing) which were woven into hurdles. Later, there was a regression to the use of brushwood and finally, when the pollen record showed the surroundings to be under full-scale agriculture, abandonment of the area.

In southwest Florida, several sites have presented puzzles in their use of various types of firewood. Cash and Useppa sites favored mangrove and button wood, while in Pine Island and Big Mound Key pine dominated. At Josslyn use of pine and mangrove shifted back and forth. Was the shift because one was better for a use such as smoking fish while the other had other qualities, such as smoke that repelled mosquitos? Or was it simply opportunistic, with pine being taken back from foraging expeditions inland, and mangrove from oystering trips? Newsom has found some correlation between the presence of oyster shell and mangrove, but much information remains to be gathered.

The botanist has identified wood used in artifacts from a number of sites, including Key Marco and Bay West near Naples. Wood was obviously selected for various purposes because of peculiar qualities. She cited a Key Marco worker's ingenious carving of a tree section with the grain, for ease of work, rather than in cross section, as is customarily done. Further, she noted at Windover the use of the dense "compression" wood on the underside of a tree fork for tool handles requiring strength.

On Horr's Island, she has noted presence of the same type of grass she has found in Northern Haitian sites.

JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

Mr. Craig Blocker, a seven-year veteran of the Florida State Dept. of Natural Resources, has spent the past three years at the Charlotte Harbor State Preserve. Mr. Blocker will give us an overview of the entire preserve with emphasis on some of the archeological sites such as Big Mound Key and Boggess Ridge. Craig will also discuss Josslyn Island and the state of Florida's management of these sites.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, June 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Tr. North, Naples, FL.

WELCOME TO SWFAS!

The Society has welcomed to membership Linda C. Blazek of Naples.

DATEBOOK

- *At the lab, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. Workers needed.
- *Wednesday, June 20, monthly meeting at the First Federal Savings & Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Tr. No., Naples, 7:30 p.m.
- *Wednesday, June 20, board of directors (officers, trustees, committee heads, interested members) at First Federal Savings & Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Tr. No., Naples, at 7:00 p.m. before the monthly members' meeting.
- *Wednesday, July 18, monthly meeting at First Federal savings & Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Tr. No., Naples, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Information: Membership, Lynn Lee, 261-4939; Finance, Jack Thompson, 261-3440 and 597-2269; Field Activities, John Beriault, 261-0082 and 434-0624; Lab, Newsletter, Art Lee, 261-4939, and 774-8517.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please do not panic! Your regular editor, Art Lee, is enjoying his vacation and will be back to publish his usual top-notch newsletter soon. In the meantime, we will attempt to get by with a second-class imitation. Many thanks to Keith Waterhouse and Charlie Strader for their contributions and assistance.

A small group of SWFAS members, Travis and Joyce Doering, John Beriault, and Keith and Anne Waterhouse, have just returned from a visit to five Mayan sites. Two in the lowlands, Copan in Honduras and Quirigua in Guatemala and three Guatemalan highland sites, Iximche, Mixco Viejo and Kaminaljuyu.

At Copan, the most important site, we were fortunate to be met by Alphonso Morales, one of the archaeologists working at the site, and son of Moises Morales of Palenque. Moises is an old friend of SWFAS and recently visited Naples as a guest of the Explorer's Club and spoke about the Mexican site of Palenque. Alphonso was kind enough to spend two days with us not only showing those portions of the site normally open to the public but also introducing us to colleagues from the three university groups working on the site. The universities currently doing long-term research are: Tulane, the University of Pennsylvania, and Penn State. All have separate investigations underway, and as the site is so large, their work areas are separated by distances up to a couple of miles.

Alphonso's own work was explained and demonstrated to us in great detail. He has been working on the site for almost four years so there was a lot to see. As is common in many sites the large temples are of a very complicated construction. The first temple to be built and the oldest is completed and fully decorated with stucco masks in relief and painted stucco. Years later, usually at the change of ruler, another temple is constructed over the first one. This new temple has much larger dimensions completely covering all the stucco decoration and obliterating temple one from view. Some years later the same process is repeated with an even larger temple covering both temples one and two. It appears that at some sites this process has occurred as many as four times. Study of the earlier temples by exterior examination is, of course, quite impossible.

What Alphonso's work consists of is driving tunnels from the outer surface to the face of an inner temple. When he hits the face of an inner temple, he turns the tunnels right and left along the face of the inner temple allowing him to study the inner temples dimensions, architecture, decoration, presence of stucco masks etc. He also searches for possible entrances into the interior of the buried temple he is studying. Alphonso was chosen by Dr. William Fash to do this work because in addition to being a graduate archeologist, Alphonso has extensive experience in the construction industry in California. Despite this experience, it does not appear to me as though most of the tunnels would meet the Collier County Building Code!!

Naturally these tunnels are strictly "verboden" to the visiting public and the opportunity that we were given to inspect this excellent archeological research was a great privilege. Alphonso has discovered huge stucco masks -- approximately eight feet high -- decorating the hidden temple and using similar techniques one of his colleagues has recently found a burial chamber. This chamber was illustrated in National Geographic.

The care and scientific accuracy of the work being carried on by these university teams at Copan is most impressive and augurs well for the future preservation and understanding of this important site.

VOLUNTEERS WORKED MANY MAN-YEARS ON YEAR OF THE INDIAN PROJECT

When the red truck rolled out the Randell's Pineland drive headed toward Gainesville last month, it was loaded with artifacts and data collected from a half-dozen test pits.

It carried another load as well: Knowledge that a major scientific undertaking can be carried out by volunteers with a minimum of professional guidance.

The field work season that ended in May was part of The Year of the Indian Project jointly supported by the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Nature Center in Ft. Myers. It combined archaeological exploration with both informal adult and institutionalized education in the area's past.

Testament to the efficient cooperation of amateurs and professionals are figures just released by Project Director Dr. William Marquardt of the Museum, showing that field work alone during the digging season involved 10,891 volunteer hours, 2,985 at Useppa and 7,906 at Pineland. There were 125 volunteers at Useppa and 334 at Pineland.

Exploration at Useppa was done in the last couple months of 1989, and in March and April at Pineland.

On the education side -- without counting the information passed in the course of casual visits to the field sites -- the Year of the Indian involved 2,810 students and 180 teachers directly. Instruction hours totaled 117 at 45 schools or educational organizations, involving 4,978 miles driven and 39 classroom visits. Twenty seven classes -- 950 children -- visited Pineland.

Faithfulmost of the faithful at the Pineland dig were Shirley and Bud House of St. James City, who logged 44 straight days of volunteer work. Shirley specializes on screening, a job with its share of dust, but one which lets her sharp eyes ensure that nothing of value escapes. Bud is everything, everywhere -- mechanical engineer (erecting a marquee with missing parts and designing off-season pit shelters) and accomplished trowel wielder.

NEWSLETTER BOOK REVIEW

By Charles Strader

Title: "Indian Givers-How the Indians of the Americas Transformed The World"

Author: Jack Weatherford

Published by Ballantine Books, 1988, 272 pages - \$8.95 paperback

With an easy to read style, the author examines how the "Discovery and Conquest" of the New World influenced the evolution of the Old World, and how the accomplishments of the Amerindians permeate our everyday lives.

Weatherford begins by outlining how the rich natural resources of the Americas and their exploitation changed and developed the world economy. He then leads into the explosion of technological achievements that mark the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

Amerindian agricultural resources and technology brought about a true revolution in food and the culinary arts. The foods discovered by the Amerindians enriched the health and welfare of past Western Civilizations and still account for 60% of the food eaten in the world today.

We are shown how native American ideas influenced the shaping of the world's political systems, and the important role of the medicinal and pharmacological resources of the Americas affect our present lives, both good and bad. Topics regarding architecture, urban planning and even transportation are discussed.

Weatherford's last chapter's title asks the question: When will America be discovered? This is a relevant anthropological and archaeological concern. Even today we know less about the past and present peoples of native America than many of the world's past Western and Eastern Civilizations. Warning; this book may forever alter your world view and the way you feel when you say, I am an American.

TRIBE GETS SITE LANDS

Destin--The Florida Tribe of Eastern Creek Indians has been given 13.5 acres of land found to contain archaeological sites, including a burial, dating back to 2000 B.C. The land was given to Walton County by a developer as part of a park development requirement after a survey disclosed the cultural deposits, and the county in turn deeded it to the tribe, which will use it as an animal sanctuary.