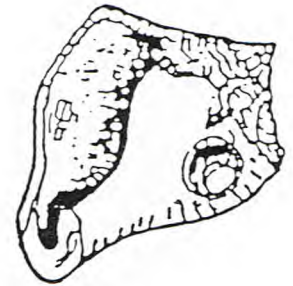


SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



A Chapter of the FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida 33941

Arthur R. Lee, editor

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DECISION ON MEETING PLACE TO BE DISCUSSED AT SESSION

Where SWFAS will be meeting in the future will be discussed at the Society's annual session, set for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, at the Community Center at Bonita Springs.

Also on the schedule are a slide show by outgoing President Charlie Strader on the prehistory of Peru, and election of officers.

Because of the importance of the meeting place agenda item members are urged to make a special effort to attend.

Nominees for next year's officers are Wayne (Bud) House, president; Eleanore Young, first vice president; Gary Susdorf, second vice president; Jack Thompson, treasurer; Sylvia Ansay, secretary, and Lynn Lee, membership secretary.

New trustees would be Linda Robinson, John Beriault, Ray Seguin and Strader. Holdovers are Walt Buschelman, Gloria Sajgo, Keith Waterhouse, Art Lee and Joe Long. Others may be nominated from the floor.

A vote to make the Bonita Springs facility the regular meeting place will be taken at the session. Those unable to attend may state their views by letters, which should be mailed by Jan. 16.

The SWFAS membership is nearly exactly divided between those living in the northern and southern portions of the Society's Lee/Collier area.

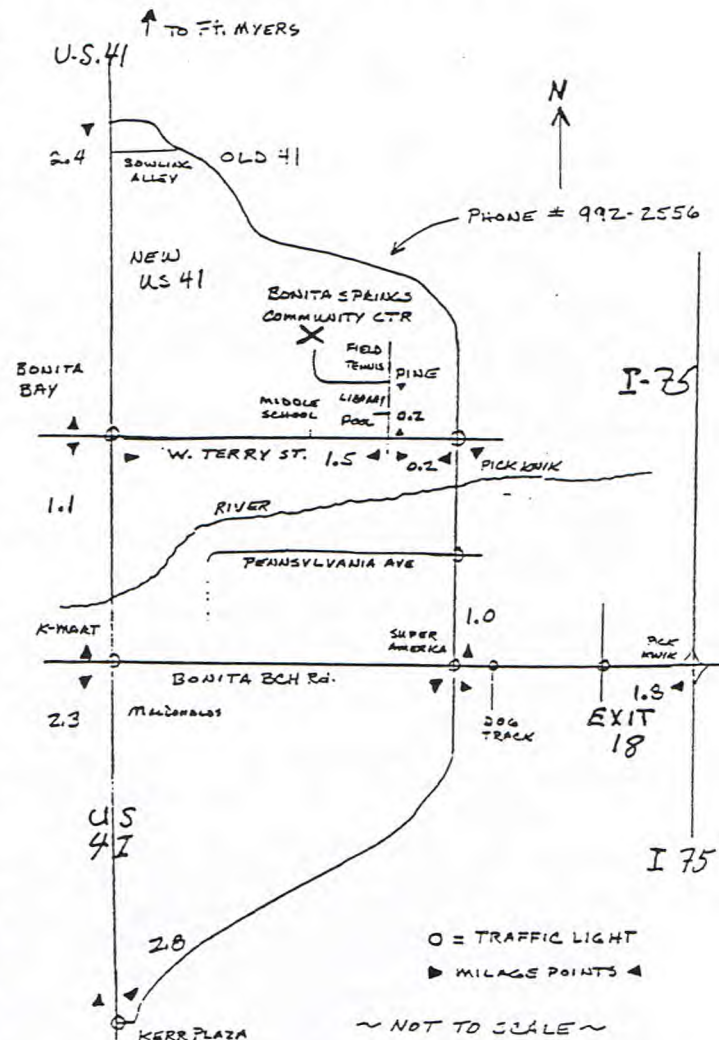
Rosters show that the preponderance of attendees at the First Federal Savings and Loan meeting place in Naples has been from the southern sector. Also, the room accommodates only 40, and in the past year there have been a number of standees.

Search for a more centrally located hall has gone on intermittently for more than a year, and the Community Center at Bonita Springs comes closest to meeting the requirements of a location mid-way between the northern and southern membership loci, adequate space and facilities, and a well-lighted parking lot.

It also would permit retention of the Society's current third-Wednesday meeting night: if the organization continues on at First Federal it will be necessary to change to the third Tuesday of the month, the only date available this year.

Don't be a has-been: Pay your dues!

HERE'S HOW TO GET THERE --



To get to the Community Center, the most straightforward way for those traveling U.S. 41 is to exit east onto West Terry Street at the traffic light marking the entrance to the Bonita Bay development, and to turn left (north) after one and one half miles. From I-75, take exit 18 west onto the Bonita Beach road, then after 1.8 miles turn right (north) onto the Old Highway 41, following it a mile to W. Terry street, which leads, after 0.2 miles, to the turn-off to the Community Center access road. Phone number. there is 992-2556 if you need help.

ROADS TO LITTLE SALT SPRING TO BE BUSY WITH THREE GROUPS

The roads leading to North Port are going to be loaded Saturday, Jan. 12, as members of three south Florida archaeological groups take Dr. John A. Gifford of the University of Miami up on his offer to tour Little Salt Spring.

To keep the traffic sorted out at the site, Dr. Gifford will receive the Time Sifters of Sarasota at 10 a.m., SWFAS at 12 noon, and the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida at 2 p.m.

For the benefit of SWFAS members who want to attend the talk of Dr. Anna C. Roosevelt of the American Museum of Natural History at Edison Community College, Ft. Myers, at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dr. Gifford has granted them permission to join with the morning Time Sifters group.

To get to the site:

Off U.S. Highway 41 from the south, turn right at a traffic light onto Biscayne Drive in North Port. Drive north to Price Boulevard, turn right (east) on it. After passing an elementary school, the site will be at your right (south) at a curve in the road; it is well marked.

From I-75, turn off at Exit 33 to go south on North Sumter Boulevard, following it to Price Boulevard, onto which you turn right (west), crossing the Myakkahatchee river to the site.

The spring has yielded some of the oldest artifacts in the state, with dates to as early as 13,000 years ago.

TRUST'S GREENSPACE ADVISORY INCLUDES HISTORIC ELEMENT

A four-point recommendation including historic considerations has been issued by the Southwest Florida Land Preservation Trust for a Collier County greenspace preservation plan as the result of a meeting of community leaders last September.

In a report summarizing the meeting, in which SWFAS participated, the Trust made these recommendations:

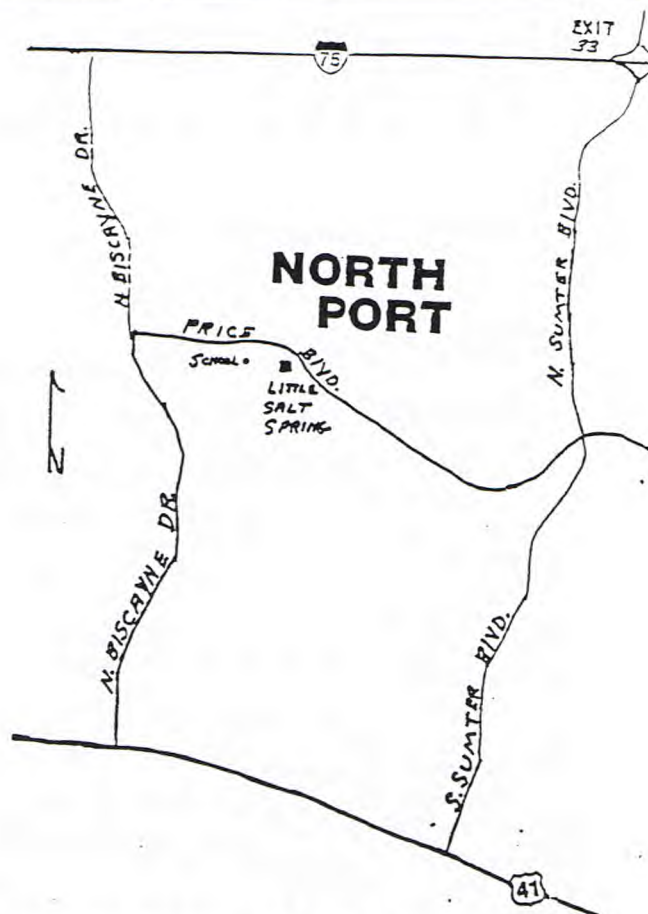
- *That a greenspace plan for the county be developed integrating lands and programs and including recreational and environmentally sensitive lands as well as urban places, beaches and access points, buffers and pedestrian ways along thoroughfares, and historic sites;

- *That a citizens task force with authority to seek grants to fund expert advice be appointed by the board of county commissioners to draw up such a plan; it would have assistance of county and city staff;

- *That the task force work be completed within a year and that county and city comprehensive plans be amended to implement its recommendations;

- *And that policies be adopted and a local acquisition program be created to implement the plan.

At the September meeting the SWFAS representation succeeded in having historic and pre-historic site protection be incorporated in considerations for land preservation and utilization.



NEWSPAPER REPORTER STRIKES BLOW TO SAVE SITES

The lurid stories about Jose Gaspar and his fellow pirates just didn't happen. As a matter of fact, Gaspar never existed; none of the pirate stories set in Southwest Florida are true; there weren't brigands preying on the coast's merchant ships.

Kevin Lollar, reporter for the *Ft. Myers News Press*, has traced the tales to the imagination of a fishing guide in the Tampa Bay area, Juan Gomez, who amused his clients by putting stories of pirates in a local setting. His tall tales were published by a railroad press agent in 1907 to make the area more attractive to northern tourists. The fictions were republished in two later books, establishing the persona of Gaspar.

Harmless fun? In some ways, yes, but in others it has been hard on the evidences of the area's pre-historic past. Gullible treasure seekers have torn down Calusa mound after Calusa mound in search of non-existent loot. "Sites are being lost every day," Dr. William Marquardt of the Florida Museum of Natural History is quoted by Lollar, "It's especially unfortunate and sad when people purposely destroy archaeological sites."

SWFAS member Dr. Michael Hansinger reminded the reporter that in the 1880s more than 100 sites were listed in Lee county; today only 10 remain.

Another member, Lindsey Williams, historian and president of the Charlotte County Historic Preservation Board, told Lollar that the Gulf coast was not a shipping lane, and hence could not have attracted piracy.

THE DATEBOOK

Excepting Jan. 12, 26, and Feb. 2, work at the Craighed lab will continue as usual -- 9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 p.m. Saturdays.

* Saturday, Jan. 12, visit to Little Salt Spring, North Port, starting at 12 noon.

* Wednesday, Jan. 16, annual meeting at the Bonita Springs Community Center starting at 7:30 p.m.

* Tuesday, Feb. 12, Board of Directors (trustees, officers, committee heads, interested members) meeting at the home of Eleanore and Bud Young, 4956 Esplanade, Bonita Springs, at 6:30 p.m.

* Wednesday, Feb. 20, monthly meeting at Bonita Springs Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

* Sunday, Feb. 24, boat tour of Pine Island Sound, leaving Four Winds marina at Bokeelia at 9 a.m. For information, call Bud House at 283-3493.

* Saturday, March 2, garage sale starting at 8 a.m.

For information: On membership, Lynn Lee, 261-4939; finances, Jack Thompson, 261-3440, 597-2269; field activities, John Beriault, 261-0082, 434-0624; lab, newsletter, Art Lee, 261-4939.

GARAGE SALE SET FOR MARCH 2

The Society's annual garage sale has been set for 8 a.m. Saturday, March 2, by the Board of Directors. Site has not been determined, but use of the parking lot of the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, Naples, will be asked. Loads of good quality merchandise are needed.

WITH OTHER CHAPTERS

Four members of a Central Florida Anthropological Society group updating sites in Kelly park north of Apopka had stepped over a palm frond on the trail. A fifth carefully removed the frond to reveal a four and one half foot diamondback rattlesnake coiled and hissing. It was removed to a less traveled part of the park. The group's librarian, Katie Barker, received its Presidents Award for reporting vandalism to a mound which has since been fenced.

Newest official chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society is the Apalachee Society of Tallahassee. President is KC Smith, who, incidentally, is the author of an article in the current *Archaeology* magazine on the status of teaching the human past in the United States.

LINDA'S NOT GOING TO BE LEFT STANDING AT THE DOCK

When Linda Blazek sent in her check to renew her SWFAS dues, she added \$10 for her seat on the Tropic Star, the Bokeelia-based boat the Society plans to charter Sunday, Feb 24. for a trip around Pine Island Sound, becoming the first to sign up for the cruise.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS SET FOR LECTURES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Three lectures arranged as part of the Year of the Indian project are set for 2 p.m. Saturdays Jan. 12, Jan. 26, and Feb. 2, at the Corbin Auditorium of Edison Community College, College Parkway, Fort Myers. Announcement of the sessions is made by the sponsoring Florida Museum of Natural History, Nature Center of Lee County, and the Fort Myers Historical Museum.

The first lecture, by Dr. Anna C. Roosevelt, will be on the 12th, the same day SWFAS is to tour Little Salt Spring at North Port. Though the SWFAS visit will start at 12 noon, arrangements have been made so those planning to attend the lecture may join the Time Sifters of Sarasota at 10 a.m.

Dr. Roosevelt, who will be remembered as having visited the excavations at Pineland, will speak on "The Surprising Prehistory of Amazonia". She is a research associate with the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and currently is visiting professor in anthropology at Boston University. She has recently authored a book on the tropical lowlands of Amazonia.

Dr. Michael E. Moseley of the University of Florida Jan. 26 will speak on "The Maritime Cultures of Peru". He is professor of anthropology and director of the Institute of Archaeology and Paleoenvironmental Studies., and the author of books and articles on Bolivia, Columbia and Peru.

Feb. 2 Dr. Bruce D. Smith, curator of North American Archaeology with the Smithsonian Institution, will speak on "Warriors, Chiefs, and Priests: Prehistoric Moundbuilder Societies of the Southeast." He has written four books and numerous papers on Mississippian period prehistoric societies and is past president of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.

The lectures are free and are open to the public.

PUT THE CROESUS BACK IN JACK THOMPSON'S MONEY BAG

The annual treasurer's report this year was to have been a doozy, with pie charts and graphs.

But SWFASers are used to paying their dues at the December meeting, and this year there was a picnic instead, leaving Treasurer Jack Thompson little to chart.

He's bringing his BIG money bag to the January meeting and expects to need help carrying it to his car.

Individuals owe \$15, families \$25, students \$10. Twenty five will make you a "contributor"; life memberships are \$100 and \$150.

If you joined after Sept. 1, not to worry until 1992.

The trip is planned to start at the Four Winds marina at Bokeelia at 9 a.m., visiting Burgess Island, once the home of the flashlight magnate; Cabbage Key for lunch; and Caya Costa for two hours of beach time. The charter fee will be \$500; charge will be \$10 each -- more if all 50 seats are not filled. Members of other chapters are invited. To reserve seats, mail your \$10 to Treasurer, SWFAS, P.O.B. 9965, Naples, FL 33941.

NEW MEXICO SITE DATES AT NEARLY 25,000 YEARS IS CLOVIS BARRIER BROKEN?

North American archaeologists trying to establish the arrival of man in the New World keep bumping into the 12,000-year barrier.

There are numerous sites dated 10,000 years and older which contained the distinctive Clovis point, a fluted spear head with a concave base.

And a few scattered sites, from Mexico to Alaska, have given evidences of older colonization, but not without controversy as to their stratigraphy, and questions about artifacts having been moved by natural forces into soils other than those onto which they were dropped.

Now Carbon¹⁴ dates have come in from a multicomponent site located in New Mexico's Chihuahua desert north of El Paso, Texas, being excavated by Dr. Richard S. "Scotty" MacNeish and known as Pendejo Cave. Material from there has been dated at 24,420 +/-560 years.

The cave is a limestone cavern measuring about five meters wide and 12 deep, with a maximum height of three meters.

MacNeish started his exploration because its arid climate had preserved sandals, corncocks, baskets and similar materials in its upper layers.

A 1x5-meter test trench, since enlarged, exposed what MacNeish told a writer for *The Mammoth Trumpet* was "textbook stratigraphy", with alternating layers of burned ash. Upper levels yielded Ceramic and Archaic period artifacts.

Zone A (see the sketch) had mostly owl droppings and other recent material; B had pottery sherds and chipping debris from 1,000 to 1,700 years ago. Zones B to F had Archaic materials, including points, sandals, baskets and nets.

Zone E¹ was noteworthy because it consisted of a white ash that had been heavily cemented by water, preventing up and down movement of materials. F, below it, had blades and a denticulate tool from about 6,300 to 8,000 years ago.

Upper levels had contained a profusion of animal bones from coyote to deer and rattlesnake, but with Zone 6 faunal

materials changed drastically with the discovery of bone from a giant horse and large paleolama, in association with stone scrapers, a prismatic blade and a graver. Such animals, along with some small horse, extinct antelope, giant bear, a large feline, and deer, rabbits, rodents, birds and snakes, continue through Zone J.

However, in Zone K fauna change to include long tailed weasel, giant turtle, salamander, tapirs and a toad, indicative of a wetter forested environment, possibly corresponding to the late glacial maxima of 18,000 to 25,000 years ago.

Below Zone K the deer, giant horse and large camels are gone, levels down through Zone O being dominated by small and medium-sized camel and horse, extinct antelope, goat and giant turtle, suggesting a desert-like environment.

Similarly, artifacts beneath Zone G also fall into three groupings. There is a change to a more generalized flake-tool assemblage in Zones H to J, including unifacial side scrapers, large spokeshave-like implements, utilized flakes and large ovoid cores.

Spokeshaves and utilized flakes continue into Zone K with the addition of a bifacial core tool and a knife made from a rib bone, suggesting a period of cultural as well as environmental change.

Zones L to N are dominated by unifacial points, bifacial choppers, utilized flakes, and possible worked bone. Finally, Zone O, the lowest artifact block, is heavy on choppers and pebble tools -- split pebble, side scraper chopper, and flaked chopper, plus a bone awl made from the scapula of a horse, with "a lot of whittle marks on it".

Although the artifacts, MacNeish says, "have not been enhanced by being burned, flaked and scarred" by fire, "there's no doubt in my mind that they are tools". They are made of chert or quartzite, and the cave is of limestone, so MacNeish is confident that they were not from roof fall or "brought into the cave by rabbits".

He believes that Pendejo Cave may prove to be the turning point for a universally accepted pre-Clovis occupation in the Americas.

North-South vertical profile shows complex stratigraphy of Pendejo Cave. (Courtesy of R.S. MacNeish)

