NEWSLETTER

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Chapter of the FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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ORDINANCE SHOWDOWN AUG. 7

STAFF TO SUBMIT VERSION MODIFIED AFTER JULY MEET

Collier county is nearly assured of having an ordinance for the protection of historic and archaeological sites after the Board of County Commissioners meeting August 7. The question is what that ordinance will look like.

The Board will have before it a draft which has been modified by county staff after a July 18 meeting of the County Planning Commission.

It also will have before it that body's recommendation that regulatory provisions be considered only after Board approval of a map showing areas likely to have historic or prehistoric sites.

And on the desk of Commission Chair Anne Goodnight is a letter from the director of the state Division of Resource Planning, Robert G. Nave, saying that the county has until 3 p.m. August 9 to deliver an adopted ordinance or find itself in circuit court.

The new version does away with a proposed office of staff archaeologist; functions that would have been handled by that position now would be done by the county Community Development Services division, part of the county permitting apparatus.

Regulatory functions would automatically take effect after the county commission approves a map of sensitive areas, which would be produced by a Historic Preservation Board to be appointed by the county commission.

The draft still would exempt nearly all county projects from provisions of the ordinance.

At the Planning Commission meeting, opponents of the ordinance presented an organized, well orchestrated performance, with arguments concentrating on charges that it duplicated state requirements, gave too much power to officials, would cause construction delays, and

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August meeting

BERIAULT TO DISCUSS POTTERY OF SOUTHWEST

Pottery types of Southwest Florida will be described at SWFAS' August meeting, which will be held at the Bonita Springs Recreation Center starting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, the 21st.

Speaker will be John G. Beriault, founding officer and several terms president of the Society and of the Florida Anthropological Society.

A native of Naples, Beriault has studied the archaeology of the area since his boyhood and has amassed a large collection of slides of its pottery. He is a director of SWFAS and of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy.

Beriault took a degree in history at the University of Miami, and is a past president of the Collier County Historical Society and former editor of its quarterly journal.

An orchid fancier, Beriault is past president of the local Native Plant Society. Much of his interest in botany stems from his boyhood association with Dr. Frank C. Craighead, an early environmentalist of the area and pioneer student of the Everglades.

It'll be June in August; You won't want to miss it!

A once-popular song would have "June in January". SWFAS will have June in August. Here's how:

The third Wednesday of June -- SWFAS' normal meeting day -- was the 19th. In May, the Board of Collier County Commissioners set that day for the second reading of an ordinance to protect the county's cultural resources.

The SWFAS board of directors, not wanting the Society to miss so important an event, decided that the group's June meeting would be held at the county courthouse to coincide with the Commission meeting.

However, the County Commission later postponed its June 19 meeting to August 7 and SWFAS lost its June session.

Now, President Wayne House has proclaimed 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 7, as the time and date of the June meeting; the place will be the Third floor auditorium of Building F in the Collier governmental complex, at the junction of Airport road and U.S.Highway 41. The rescheduled county commission meeting, in other words, will be the SWFAS June meeting. Coffee and cookies will be served at the Craighead lab, which also is on the county grounds, after the meeting.

House asks that everyone attend the August 7 meeting to show support for the ordinance.

None of the above will affect the August meeting which will be held at the Bonita Springs Recreation center, as usual, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 21.

SWFAS DIRECTORATE

President, Wayne House; first vice president, Eleanore Young; second vice president, Gary Susdorf; treasurer, Jack Thompson; secretary, Sylvia Ansay; membership secretary, Lynn Lee; trustees: John Beriault, Walt Buschelman, Art Lee, Joe Long, Linda Robinson, Gloria Sajgo, Ray Seguin, Charlie Strader, Dr. Keith Waterhouse; committees: field, Beriault; public relations, Dorothy Thompson; education, Dr. Paul Benedict; hospitality, Isabelle Felsberg; yard sale, Barbara Logie; refreshments, Valerie Flanigan; lab, Walt Buschelman, Art Lee.

SHOWDOWN ON ORDINANCE WILL BE AT AUGUST 7 MEET

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was inadequately researched.

The attack was led off by Barbara Cowley of the Engineering Firm of Wilson, Miller, Barton & Peek, Inc. , who introduced what was to become a recurring subject -- an undated letter written to the county planning commission by Donald R. Barber, chairman of a "Development Services Steering Committee," an organization of developers and construction people which periodically reviews permitting activities of the county.

That document introduced charges repeated by the panel of developer representatives who opposed the measure -- invasion of private property rights, duplication of services, provision of a staff archaeologist, and requiring developers to pay for services from which the public would benefit.

Those protesting all or part of the ordinance included Linda Lawson, attorney for a contractors' association, who declared that there was no need for regulation, since no prehistoric sites have been vandalized or destroyed in the county, ignoring past mining of mounds and occupation sites for road fill and elimination of burial places and canals for home sites and other developments.

Others were Attorney Bruce Anderson; and Rick Henderlong of a Collier land company.

After the critical speakers had been heard, the public hearing was closed, precluding any chance to refute their allegations. SWFAS earlier had expressed the pleasure of its members in seeing a protective ordinance finally drafted, referring to the years when the county had failed to live up to commitments of its own growth management plan, which calls for regulations to protect its historical resources. The Society's plan to object to a provision which would have excluded most county projects from requirements of the ordinance was preempted by commission members who spoke in favor of broadening the pertinent draft section.

The ordinance had been introduced by Robert E. Blanchard, head of the county's long range planning unit. Commission questions regarding regulatory parts of the ordinance were answered by David Pettrow, director of the county Development Services Administration, whose office would be in charge of enforcement.

The commission has nine members, but only six attended and one of those, Raymond R. Link, could not be present for the afternoon session, at which the historic ordinance was considered. Others present were William G. Tracy, chairman; Jackie Williams, Fred N. Thomas, Kenneth R. Hunt, and R. Fred Keyes, who had cast a dissenting vote on the move to split the ordinance.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA HAD ITS UPS AND DOWNS, SWFAS TOLD

The dynamic nature of the land on which the Calusa and their predecessors made their living was described at SWFAS' July meeting by Geologist Gary Susdorf, who is a Society vice president.

Excavations at Little Salt Spring have demonstrated man's presence in Southwest Florida for some 10,000 years, and artifacts salvaged from a burial pond north of Naples were dated at 7,000 years.

In that time, the amount of land in the area has fluctuated drastically. Sanibel and Captiva islands, Susdorf pointed out, were created only 6,000 years ago, and in the subsequent time rise and fall of the Gulf water level has created new beach ridges.

When the water level lowers, more land is available for settlement, terrain which is lost when it rises again, forcing changes in the way of life of those living there. This fluctuation is due both to tectonic causes and to the advance and retreat of the glaciers.

Generally, Florida is a geologically young region. With the exception of its raised central ridge, it is largely sedimentary; geologists drill down to 18,000 feet before encountering volcanic rock.

Much of the sub-surface exploration now being done is in connection with the area's water supply, identifying acquifers and looking for zones that can be used for storage of fresh water during the wet season for use later.

Susdorf showed the audience geologic maps, core samples, a drill point and other equipment used in exploring the area's foundation.

THE FINE SCREEN

The Craighead lab has enjoyed the presence of **Jean Belknap,** returned from a lengthy trailer trip to western parks and primitive areas. The Belknaps will have another trip north before she settles down to the potsherds.

Featured speaker at Pine Island's Fourth of July observance was Craighead award winner Col. **Don Randell,** who laid many of the ills of present day America to the "explosive growth" of the population, which exacerbates problems of drugs and poverty. He urged their "sober study" by able leaders, and a vigilant press.

"CALUSA" MEANT "TOUGH GUY"?

Linguist Stephen Hale of Florida State University has postulated a lingua franca in the post-contact era, based on Latin-derived and Native American words and place names. He cites the Spanish word "callosa", (hard-skinned), which can be related to the appelation "Calusa".

It is interesting to note that even today the residents of Fajardo, Puerto Rico, in Spanish are called "cariduro" -- hard face, tough guy -- a nickname traced to the colonization era, when those settling the eastern part of the island had to be brave to face the feared Caribe tribe.

WELCOME TO SWFAS!

The Society has welcomed to membership Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hickland of Naples. The Hicklands have recently returned to Florida, of which he is a native, from California.

DATEBOOK

The Craighead lab (located at the Collier county museum, corner of U.S. 41 and Airport road in east Naples) is open Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. Come and help out!

* Wednesday, August 7, 6:30 p.m., meeting in the Third floor auditorium of Building F, Collier government complex, Airport road and U.S. 41 East, Naples, as county commission hears archaeological preservation ordinance. **Your presence is needed.**

* Tuesday, August 13, Board of Directors meeting at the home of Eleanore and Bud Young, 4956 Esplanade, Bonita Springs, at 6:30 p.m.

* Wednesday, August 21, monthly meeting at Bonita Springs Recreation Center, starting at 7:30 p.m.

* Tuesday, Sept. 10, Board of Directors meting at the home of Eleanore and Bud Young, 4956 Esplanade, Bonita Springs, at 6:30 p.m.

* Wednesday, Sept. 18, monthly meeting at Bonita Springs Recreation Center, starting at 7:30 p.m.

For information: On membership, Lynn Lee, 261-4939; finances, Jack Thompson at 261-3440, 597-2269; field activities, John Beriault, 261-0082, 434-0624; lab, newsletter, Art Lee, 261-4939, 774-8517 (lab).

COLLIER COUNTY SOIL HOLDS 8,000 YEARS OF HISTORY

Collier county's soil, the subject of an ordinance being considered by the local government, holds history dating back to a known 7,500 years, and artifacts taken from it have provoked wonder and admiration from around the world.

Marco Island's wetlands, partially excavated by an expedition a century ago, yielded beautifully carved ceremonial masks and tools, even nets complete with floats and weights, preserved by the water in which they were soaked. Unfortunately, similar sites on that island and elsewhere in the county have been destroyed in the digging of canals, and mound villages have been mined for road fill.

One that could have yielded much by careful excavation was a pond north of Naples, a large burial site in which organic materials were found. Some salvage was done but there was no opportunity for controlled excavation. Material from it was dated to nearly 8,000 years ago. Archaeologists believe that it could have proved as important as Windover, a carefully-excavated development site near Cape Canaveral, which recently yielded material that has revolutionized thought about the archaic period.

Horr's island, currently under development, provided information which transformed ideas about settlement patterns 4,500 years ago, thanks to a grant from the proprietors which permitted three months of university study.

Elsewhere on that island, burial sites have been heavily looted by vandals who in some cases used hydraulic mining.

Chokoloskee Island is nearly entirely man made, a potential source of much information about the fisher folk who once built on it impressive residential and ceremonial sites. Other raised villages were constructed on islands and along rivers of the county; some remain but many have been looted. As damaging as theft is the vandals' digging, which makes sequential dating impossible.

(It is a fairly regular occurrence for museums and private collectors of the county to be offered for sale material from prehistoric sites, ranging from skulls to pots.)

Large residential and burial mounds once stood in various parts of greater Naples (one held a type of pottery which still is known as "Gordon Pass Incised") but they have been leveled, as a canal running from Naples' Crayton cove to the Gulf by way of the Third Street shopping center has been filled. There is a pattern of secondary locations well inland from the Gulf.

Recent discoveries have enlarged scientists' knowledge of the way of life of the county's early occupants, but there is still much to learn about the Calusa, who were unique in the world in having an advanced civilization, with a hierarchical social order and important civic construction projects, without an agricultural base, and their predecessors.

(by the *Newsletter* staff)

LEE COUNTY MAKING PLANS FOR HISTORIC TRUST CONFERENCE

The Lee county division of planning is working on arrangements for hosting the annual conference of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation in Fort Myers Sept. 19-21.

Discussion topics will include public archaeology, a panel on which is to be headed by Dr. William H. Marquardt of the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, and a number of subjects related to historic preservation. Members of SWFAS are invited to attend; for registration information call the Planning office at 335-2443 or 335-2235.

DID CALUSA BEAD SCREW UP LIFE OF ARTIFACT COLLECTOR?

Can a common bead fashioned by a Calusa potter screw up the life of the 20th Century person who wears it?

Mike Keith of Pine Island is convinced that it can.

A telephone worker, Mike and his fellows are always on the lookout for artifacts in the trenches they dig. They have handled them with no ill effect, he told SWFAS members at their July meeting, until he started wearing around his neck a bead a friend gave him. After that:

He cut his thumb severely working on a cable,
He developed a high fever, cause uncertain,
He smashed a finger working on a car,
He broke the drain system of a friend's air conditioner,
He injured a finger on a garage door,
While he was wearing the bead at his girl friend's house, a washing machine ruined eight dresses,
He subsequently was ill for two days,
His refrigerator blew up,
Twice he had dreams that came true,
He lost his girl friend.
He now keeps the bead in a box; doesn't wear it.

SWFAS members, to whom it was shown, handled it -- gingerly.

SWFAS, HISTORIC ORDINANCE, GO BACK A LONG, LONG WAY

SWFAS' relationship with the draft Collier county ordinance to protect cultural resources is long:

In the spring of **1989**, on learning that regulations to that purpose were being drafted, then President Keith Waterhouse and a number of other members wrote to County Manager Neil Dorrill to recommend that its provisions be broad enough to provide adequate protection.

June 5, 1989, a series of suggested modifications to the proposed regulations were submitted to the drafting agency, the county planning office.

At a **Sept. 7, 1989** meeting the Collier County Planning Commission rejected the two draft ordinances. A county official who would been concerned with their enforcement called them unworkable, and SWFAS had objected to them as inadequate.

Oct. 24, 1989, the Board of County Commissioners instructed staff to prepare another ordinance; at its meeting Dr. Waterhouse said that SWFAS, which had urged passage of an adequate law, as a show of good faith would seek funding for up-dating an earlier archaeological survey.

In **December, 1989**, SWFAS members found inadequate a draft which would center preservation activities in a new historic resources department.

In **July, 1990**, the SWFAS board wrote Kevin O'Donnell, then county public services administrator whose office had been charged with drafting the law, objecting to another draft as lacking means of enforcement. It recommended that the county seek state funds to hire a professional to draft an ordinance.

Charlie Strader, then president of SWFAS, in **September, 1990**, wrote the county attorney a reminder that the county had missed an August 1 deadline for enactment of protective legislation. He wrote that if a schedule for its preparation were not forthcoming by **Oct. 15** SWFAS would consult the state department of community affairs for help. Before SWFAS could call on the state, the county dismissed O'Donnell, and it was decided to give his successor a chance to produce another draft.

Meanwhile, the Collier county Audubon Society included the ordinance in a complaint to the state citing a score of instances in which the county had failed to comply with the growth management plan.

March 5, 1991, the board of county commissioners set public hearings for May 20 and June 3 to meet a June 5 deadline imposed by the State in response to the Audubon complaint. SWFAS representatives urged enactment of a full-scale ordinance rather than a limited one that had been rumored.

June 5, 1991, 16 SWFAS members attended the commissioners' first public hearing on the new draft ordinance, with representatives speaking in its favor, though objecting to a provision that would exempt the county itself from most of its provisions. The Society had provided the county ordinances from other counties and copies of state and federal regulations and standards. The commission deferred its final hearing until August 7.

June 24, 1990, Society representatives took part in a workshop on the draft.

July 16, 1991, SWFAS spoke in favor of a draft at a meeting of the Collier County Planning Commission.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS THAT WERE

A non-returning paleo-Indian boomerang discovered in Little Salt Spring near Northport 12 years ago has to undergo more treatment before it can be handled, Dr. John Gifford of the University of Miami has told a newspaper reporter.

The artifact, which has been viewed by many SWFAS members visiting the sinkhole, is being soaked in a stabilizing chemical to replace the water which has prevented its decomposition in the 10,000 years since it was fashioned from knotted oak wood.

Dr. Gifford told *The Miami Herald* that its treatment should take another six to nine months.

The hunting weapon is shaped at one end not unlike a walking stick. Experiments with models made in its style showed excellent stability in flight and capability of downing game up to the size of small deer.

SHORT, STRESSFUL LIVES LIMITED TEQUESTA PROGRESS: COLEMAN

From the many remains that have been examined over the years, it has become generally accepted that the early settlers of south Florida had relatively short, stressful lives.

Wes Coleman, a long-time student of the Tequesta, who had made the present Dade county area their home, has conjectured about cultural ramifications of that circumstance.

Writing in the July newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, he notes that a presumed late menarche and a life-span of about 25 years could have restricted women to as few as three children. A high rate of infant mortality would have further limited populations.

The result, he believes, was a society in which older children would have been responsible for passing on a good part of tribal beliefs and skills.

Further, the few who survived to 40 or 50 years would have had a great -- and conservative -- influence on society. These factors Coleman considers responsible for the absence of complicated earthworks, inferior pottery and the persistence of ceramic patterns such as Opa-Locka, Miami, and Key Largo Incised over centuries.

These same factors he sees carrying over to the larger scene, citing evidence of the Tequesta being under the control of Southwest Florida's Calusa nation.