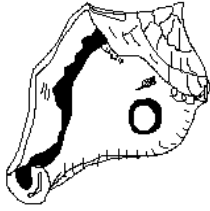


# SWFAS



**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

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It's more than just an auto race!  
Our next speaker...

## Welcome To The New Prez! Bud House Sets New Standards At February Board Meeting

**B**ud House began his new administration with his friendly, yet no-nonsense style of leadership at the February SWFAS Board of

Directors meeting held at the Hampton Inn in Bonita Springs February 10th. A well-prepared and nicely-printed agenda greeted the attending board members, and the meeting advanced smoothly and with fruitful deliberation on the topics at hand, which ranged from our hosting of the Year 2000 FAS Conference to a change of meeting time from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM to allow those board members living on the far-flung periphery of the SWAS region (Bud included) a better chance of returning home at a reasonable hour. One important item that was approved by the Board was the donation of \$200.00 toward the purchase by the Calusa Land Trust of a lot that includes part of one of the last surviving segments of the Pineland Canal, an important and early "public works project" created by the Indians of Pine Island to cross the northern midsection of the island. Under Bud's capable direction, we hope to involve more of the membership in our day-to-day activities and overall goals. Hail to the Chief! (or is it The Bud?)



**Working on the Brickell Circle:** Photo taken during the Final Days of the project. Those of you lucky enough to see it were blessed...

## **DR. ROBERT GORE TO BEGIN A SERIES OF ARTICLES CONCERNING ARCHAEOLOGY**

Dr. Robert Gore, well-known ecologist and environmentalist, has agreed to provide a series of articles for this Newsletter from his writings on

archaeology and related matters. Dr. Gore is currently writing a book on Lake Okeechobee and many of his articles are researches done in conjunction with this effort. These articles will begin in the next issue with a fascinating piece about "Thong Trees".

## **THE DATEBOOK**

**March 10th - SWFAS Board  
of Directors Meeting,**  
Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs,  
7:00 PM

**March 17th - General Meeting**  
Bonita Springs Community  
Center, 7:30 PM

## **About SWFAS**

**The directorate:** President Wayne ("Bud") House, first vice president Don Taggart, second vice president Betsy Perdichizzi, membership secretary Brenda Hamilton, treasurer Jack Thompson, recording secretary Jo Ann Grey, directors Valerie Flanigan, Sue Long, Dottie Thompson, Jo Ann Grey, Charles Dugan, Annette Snapp, Tom Franchino, John Beriault and Charlie Strader.

The committees: Field: Beriault, 434-0624; Hospitality: position open; Membership: Brenda Hamilton; Publicity: Dottie Thompson, 597-2269; Sales: Valerie Flanigan, 262-8394; Finances: Jack Thompson 597-2269, 774-8517; Lab: (774-8517), Art Lee, 261-4939, Walt Buschelman, 775-9734, Jack Thompson, 597-2269.

To Join: Address your check to the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101. Dues are: Individual \$20, Individual Sustaining \$50.00, Family \$35, Student \$15.

Any questions, comments, contributions to the Newsletter: John G. Beriault, acting editor, P.O. Box 9074, Naples, FL 34101-9074 or Email to: [JGBeriault@aol.com](mailto:JGBeriault@aol.com).

# Tim Lewis Tells Us About Our Not-So-Distant Ancestors

Tim Lewis, a researcher and archaeologist who completed a survey of historic homesteads in the Rookery Bay area for his masters thesis in 1996 gave SWFAS (at our February meeting) an excellent presentation of what can be gained from a project concentrating on recent historic archaeology. Mr. Lewis showed slides of the sites and physical remains discovered during his visits to the tidal rivers and out-islands framing the area bordered to the south by Isles of Capri and to the north by the south Naples area. His researches concentrated on the non-invasive examination and reconstruction of five historic homesteads, not all of which were primitive structures - one (from early accounts) boasted an organ and decorative kerosene lamps! Mr. Lewis also attempted to begin a preliminary study of the lifeways and consumer habits of the early pioneers of the region, based in part on the study of discarded glass, metal and ceramic objects recovered during the survey. Many of these items he was able to find offered in an early Sears and Roebucks catalog, suggesting that the early settlers were sophisticated long-distance shoppers for their needs, wants, and even luxuries. We hope this initial research will lead to further projects by Tim Lewis and others.

## PAGE TWO PINE ISLAND CANAL PROJECT by Bud House

Can you imagine how hard it is to solicit donations to purchase a linear depression that stretches across six parcels of land, especially if you are soliciting from archaeological "NON-BELIEVERS"? Well, now is the time for all of the "ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENTHUSIASTS" to contribute to the preservation of a portion of the famous PINE ISLAND CANAL. The CALUSA LAND TRUST AND NATURE PRESERVE OF PINE ISLAND, INC. has obtained an "Option to Purchase" for a one acre parcel of land through which the canal traversed. The "Option" expires on 12-31-99 and has a purchase price of \$12,000.

The September, 1997 Vol. 50 No. 3 issue of the FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGIST had an article entitled "HOW THE PINE ISLAND CANAL WORKED: TOPOGRAPHY, HYDRAULICS, AND ENGINEERING" authored by George Luer and Dr. Ryan Wheeler. They determined that the canal was not a simple or casually-dug "ditch", and that careful planning went into its placement on the landscape and intensive effort went into its construction and maintenance. They also concluded that the canal was constructed with a series of

stepped impoundments utilizing ground water and rainfall for the water supply.

THE CALUSA LAND TRUST was organized in 1976 to acquire properties to save environmentally sensitive lands and to save sites with historical and archaeological significance. It has acquired an interest in over 1500 acres on and about Pine Island. This is the first attempt to purchase a parcel with archaeological significance and if it is successful in receiving the necessary donations we will immediately begin a new campaign for the acquisition of the five remaining parcels, that still show evidence of the canal, for their preservations. Questions, or comments, should be directed to Wayne House at 941-283-3493.

All donations should be sent to the CALUSA LAND TRUST AND NATURE PRESERVE OF PINE ISLAND, INC. AT P.O. BOX 216, BOKEELIA, FL. 33922. Any donations in excess of \$15, marked "Canal", will provide a membership in the Land Trust. YA'LL GIVE.



## ARCHAEOLOGY

# AS I SEE IT

by John G. Berialt

## AMBIANCE OF SHELL MOUNDS: PART EIGHT: DIFFERENT SHELLS FOR DIFFERENT SHELLERS

In our last installment, I began talking about the most important constructional element present in shell mounds, namely shell. I mentioned there are many species of shells, over a hundred of which could be said to have been routinely used by the early Indians, directly or indirectly, to create the coastal archaeological sites which have come to be called “shell mounds” in Southern Florida. What do I mean by “*directly or indirectly*”? Perhaps I should say, *deliberately, incidentally, or even accidentally*. The vast majority of shells present in a coastal site, volumetrically if not numerically,

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are there because the Indians deliberately placed them there. They arrived “on site”, as the intentional byproducts of resource-gathering for the extraction of food, the curation (creation) as tools, or even (as some archaeologists believe), the accretion (enlargement) of the site itself to improve it as a living area.

Some shell, however, arrived on site as what I call “fellow travelers”, shells that were accidentally gathered up with (usually adhering to) the deliberately-gathered shell. These

shells (and other small marine creatures) were part of the ecological community or niche and “came along” with the harvest. Anyone that has gathered live shellfish ( a good example are clusters of oysters) remembers having to rinse the dickens out of them from all different angles to free them of the slime, mud, and small crustaceans, crabs, isopods, worms, algae, etc. If you were real smart (or had prior experience), you didn’t do this in the kitchen sink! Even after many preliminary washings, it is still probable more of this “encrustation of life” will be found adhering to the inaccessible crevasses of the shells. This living “detritus” was carried back to the living sites (shell mounds) in ancient times as well, and now forms an important branch of study in laboratories. Determinations made on this study tell us where the Indians harvested shellfish and other marine resources, how healthy (exploited or stressed) the resource was, and how the condition and nature of the resource fluctuated through time (thousands of years). Information of this sort can be expanded and applied to the health of our present-day environment, something that is reluctantly (in some quarters) finding its way into the reports and recommendations of regional planning councils and ultimately affecting the development of decisions on growth restriction.

Thus, even the very smallest shells and the

insignificant debris of ancient daily lives are worthy of our attention, study, and respect. As these articles develop, perhaps we will eventually get around to naming some of these “fellow travelers” and discussing their origins and possible significance to the archaeological record. But for now, let’s head back up to the top of the list of collected shellfish and talk about “the Big Three”.

The “Big Three” are the three most important, economically useful and numerically ubiquitous shell species present in the coastal shell mound sites in Southern (specifically Southwest) Florida. Why the “Big Three”? Actually, it could have been the “Big Four”, “Big Five”, or even the “Big Seventeen” or “Big Fifty-Four”. To some extent, assigning importance is an arbitrary action, or even a “gut” feeling. To me, and I’m the assignor of importance in this article, the “big Three” will always be: Oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), Lightning Whelk (*Busycon contrarium*), and Clam (*Mercenaria campechiensis*). To this rare “inner circle” of shells could be added, with little difficulty, such species as: Horse Conch, Florida Crown Conch, Banded Tulip, Ponderous Arc, Surf Clam, Sunray Venus, Pear Whelk, Lucine (Southeast Florida), Queen Conch (Southeast Florida and the Keys), True Tulip, Fighting Conch, Scallop, ... and the list could go on. Nearly all the above

in different sites, site areas, and features can assume a predominance of representation and importance that can approach 100% of the sample. All were economically important to the early Indians. In the next installment, we will begin talking about that nearly ubiquitous and highly important shellfish, the oyster.

## **THERESA SCHOBERTO SPEAK AT MARCH 17TH SWFAS MEETING**

Theresa Schober will be the March speaker for SWFAS. Below is an abstract of her intended topic and a little about who she is and what she is doing:

### **PAGE FOUR Integrating Archaeology and Ecology: Reconstructing Prehistoric Human Diet in Baja California Sur, Mexico**

Spanish ships first landed in the Cape Region of Baja California Sur, Mexico in 1533 but native resistance and an unfamiliar and unyielding desert environment met attempts at exploration and colonization. The first permanent settlement and mission was not established until 1697 by Jesuit priests at Loreto. This entire settlement was later destroyed in a revolt by the combined forces of normally antagonistic tribal

groups in 1734. Despite the defiant stance of the Native peoples, European-introduced diseases eradicated the entire indigenous population of this region by the mid-1800s.

The available information on the diet and health status of the prehistoric and historic populations in the Cape Region is somewhat contradictory. Although ethnohistoric documents indicate that the Pericú were nomadic marine-oriented foragers, the limited archaeological record of the Las Palmas Culture suggests a land-focused economy. Technological items used for hunting and/or gathering are very abundant compared to fish hooks, weirs, and nets. A terrestrial orientation is also corroborated by recent data on the frequency of dental caries among Las Palmas Culture skeletons. Stable isotope analysis in archaeology is a valuable tool for investigating the relative contribution of marine and terrestrial food resources to the diets of prehistoric peoples.

Theresa Schober began her studies in archaeology at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada where she obtained her B.Sc. in 1992. Graduate school led her to study at the University of Illinois (MA 1998) and now she is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Ms. Schober has participated in archaeological excavations in the Northern Plains, primarily at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, the

high arctic regions of Canada, the Midwestern United States, Baja California Sur, Mexico, and Panama. Her specific research interests include the adaptation of hunting and gathering societies to desert and coastal ecosystems, the influence of culture change on diet and nutrition, and integrating archaeology with public school education.



**A Sherd Indeed!** Unusual ceramic fragment found at the Olde Marco Inn  
Photo taken by Richard Pollock



**The Brickell Circle From the Outside:**  
Photo taken during the Final Days of the project. Nice shot taken by Diane Hamilton.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS**

**THE CALUSA: PEOPLE OF THE ESTUARY** A thousand years ago south Florida was the domain of the Calusa Indians, a remarkable and complex society which had as its homeland the rich

estuaries of southwest Florida. Utilizing locally available materials -wood, plant fibers, bone, shell, and sharks' teeth - they fashioned ingenious tools: a wooden throwing stick called an atlatl that increased dramatically their ability to throw spears, an ax made by fixing a large, sharpened sea shell to a wooden handle, palm-fiber nets that could capture fish in great quantities. And they painted, carved, and engraved, producing works of art that are known the world over. The rich ecological diversity of the area they settled is as important a part of the story as the creative skills of the people themselves. The subtropical coastal environment of

#### **PAGE FIVE**

southwest Florida, where fish and shellfish were found in fantastic quantities, provided a year-round abundance of food. Game was plentiful. Deer, turtles, and ducks were among other animals eaten by the Calusa. A dazzling profusion of plants provided food, medicines, and materials for making canoes, mats, nets, and fishing tackle. Over time, the Calusa became a powerful and complex society while continuing to practice a fishing, hunting, and gathering economy. The Calusa were divided into nobles and commoners and their Cacique (King) received gifts of tribute from towns and villages many

miles away. They believed in an afterlife, and made daily offerings to their ancestors. Elaborate rituals included processions of masked priests and synchronized singing by hundreds of young women.

**PINELAND TOURS** The Randell Research Center is offering walking tours of the Pineland site: a 240-acre Calusa village comprised of ten mounds, four of which are over 20 feet tall. Why did the Calusa build these large mounds? The tours focus on the lives and technologies of the Calusa Indians. See how local palm fibers can be twisted into strong cords and ultimately woven into nets. Witness how the Calusa may have manufactured and used their durable shell tools. Throw a spear farther than you ever have before with a Calusa-style atlatl. In addition, examine samples of ancient midden (fish bones, shells, and pottery) and learn how archaeologists recreate the diet and environment of the Calusa. Throughout the tour, the relationship between people and the environment is emphasized. The Pineland site, with its mounds, ancient canal, and estuarine settings, provides a unique opportunity to witness first-hand the landscape and lives of the Calusa Indians.

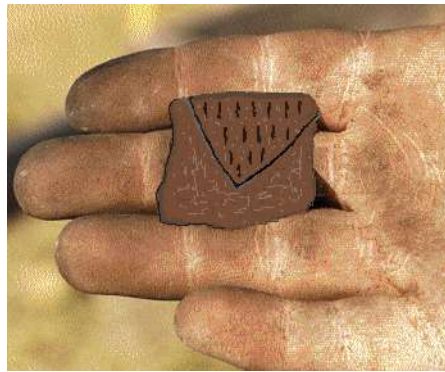
**WHEN AND WHERE** Walking tours of the Pineland site are offered every Saturday at 10:00 A.M. at the Randell Research Center, Pineland, Florida. Look for the Center's welcome banner

at the site entrance across from Mattson Marina on Waterfront Drive. Site tours run for about one-and-a-half to two hours, and are limited to 30 persons. A donation of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children is requested. Reservations are recommended, but not required. For reservations call 283-2062. Teachers wishing to include their students in this unique opportunity should contact the Lee County Environmental Education Program at 275-3033. **KAYAK TOURS** The Randell Research Center, in cooperation with the Captiva Kayak Company, is offering a series of kayak tours. Explore the rich waters of Pine Island Sound with its abundant estuarine life. Or paddle to Mound Key and hike to the highest point in Lee County: the tallest known Calusa mound. Kayak tours integrate Calusa culture with wildlife observation, providing an on-the-water, Calusa perspective. Tours last about two hours. A tax-deductible donation of \$30.00 per person is requested for participation. All kayaks and necessary equipment are provided by the Captiva Kayak Company. Reservations are required.

The Randell Research Center is a program of the Florida Museum of Natural History, which is the official state natural history museum of the State of Florida. All tours are guided by Corbett Torrence, site director and archaeologist at the Randell Research Center, Pineland, Florida (941)-283-2062.



**Tooling, Ticking - who loves ya, babe?**  
Example of (probably) Late Glades tooling or ticking found at the Olde Marco Inn. Photo by Richard Pollock.



**Interested in a little Zonation?** Manatee Zoned Punctate? Or maybe we should call it Marco Zoned Ticked. Could be an Early Glades III horizon marker (from Olde Marco Inn). Retouched Photo by Richard Pollock.

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**Working hard, Finding a Shard...**  
People hard at work at the Olde Marco Inn Project. Photo by Richard Pollock



**And You thought Multiple-Piercing was only for the Young...** Shell adze with multiple (Dismal key Style) piercing on the crown, found at the Olde Marco Inn. Photo by Richard Pollock

# NEWSLETTER