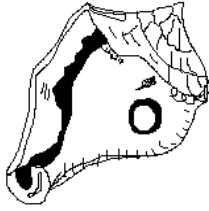


SWFAS



**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

Inside this Newsletter

- 1 Art of the Atlatl:** See what Art Lee has to say about it...
- 2 The Ten Thousand Islands - Minus A Half-Dozen**
Another Great Article by Dr. Robert Gore...
- 5 Who Used To Be Who...**
Read Steve Tutko's Article and Find Out!



Assorted Shell Hammers: Typical examples of *Pleuroploca* (horse conch) and *Busycon* (lightning whelk) Type C hammers found by the dozen during work at the Olde Marco Inn.

ART LEE ADDS INFO ON ATLATLS

One of the interesting things an editor receives is feedback from various articles. Art Lee, director of the Craighead Lab, in response to Linda Ballou's excellent article on an Internet site featuring atlatls has this information to add:

Dear editor,

Thanks to Linda Ballou for her news of the "World Atlatl Magazine: the Online Magazine of Primitive Technology." I am writing this to make sure that this website is not confused with the printed quarterly newsletter **The Atlatl**, which has been published as the official organ of the World Atlatl Association since 1988. There is no apparent connection between that organization and the website.

The Association is a serious endeavor, coordinating and setting standards for competitions which are held in most states and cooperating with European events. There is some exchange between the new world and Europe of contestants (there is now an International Standard Accuracy Contest), and much of information, via the newsletter.

Besides carrying organizational and contest news, the printed newsletter has been the sole forum for reports on studies of the device and its projectiles, which grade downward from the results of serious experimentation in various aspects of spear-throwing technology.

History of the weapon has

not been ignored, and SWFASers will be interested to know that the earliest issues contained detailed descriptions of atlatls found by Cushing. Readers are inured to the space-fillers of Bill Tate, long-time editor, who can't abide blank white spaces: "Only in America could the slowest traffic of the day be referred to as the 'rush hour'".

Art Lee

THE DATEBOOK

May 12th - SWFAS Board of Directors Meeting, Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 6:30 PM

May 19th - 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.

Island Days...

The following article is an excellent overview by Dr. Robert Gore on the situation and formation of the northern portion of the so-called Ten Thousand Islands, including Marco (where many of us are working at the Olde Marco Inn). Little did we know we were working in the "sediment shadow" of Cape Romano! Archaeology *is* a "question of geography" rather than the reverse - and the more we can know about the underlying conditions that "set the stage" for the prehistoric inhabitants of Southern Florida, the better our own archaeological reporting will become.

THE TEN THOUSAND ISLANDS--MINUS A

HALF DOZEN by Dr. Robert H. Gore

Anthropologists, archaeologists, and demographers usually categorize Cape Romano, Marco Island, and the more northerly coastal barrier islands extending to the Naples headland, as part of the Ten Thousand Islands coastal physiographic feature, primarily for geographic expediency. However, the marine geology of the islands from Cape Romano northward to Naples shows them to be beach-ridge (i.e. wave-built) or bar-built landforms at the distal tip of the extensive Gulf Coastal Barrier Island Chain. All were produced by marine

processes in the Gulf of Mexico. These beach ridges can be clearly seen in old (pre-development) aerial photographs of Marco Island. Once a coastal barrier foundation has been laid (often a raised limestone ridge forms the original obstruction) the island can develop in a number of ways. Two of the most common are by

PAGE TWO

deposition, coalescence and growth of shoals and sand bars (bar-built), or by sediment deposition from the island itself or from nearby mainland sources or tidal passes (progradation). Sand Dollar Island in the mouth of the Big Marco River is a intermittent or ephemeral shoal-cum-barrier island "wannabe" that illustrates these processes nicely.

Moreover, beach-ridge barriers, once they become stabilized, and accumulate large amounts of sand, often develop dune ridges farther up on shore. Dune ridges are mounds of wave-deposited beach sand raised by the wind into sand hills that usually parallel the coastline. These hills often shift parallel to, or normal to, the coast until seaside vegetation colonizes them. The dunes themselves then tend to stabilize, which in turn allows them to become higher, broader, or longer as wind processing and vegetation growth continues. The sandhill area on Marco Island adjacent to present-day Barfield Bay, and on Horr's Island, are prime examples of these ancient

oceanic-atmospheric interactions and show the power of wind, sand and plants as island builders.

The actual number of islands that has existed within the Gulf Coast Barrier Island Chain is unknown because many of these same islands have undergone coalescence, sundering, submergence or emergence over time. For example, an 1853 survey map and an 1856 military map both suggest that the Naples "headland" extending from Gordon Pass northward beyond Hickory Bay was once a series of coastal barriers. Evidence of previous tidal passes or inlets (so-called "blind passes") on present day Keywaydin Island(s) can easily be seen on any good aerial photograph. As recently as this century the southern tip of Little Marco has tried several times to link up with nearby Cannon Island, itself now a back-barrier standing behind the Gulf of Mexico's "line of scrimmage." Sea Oat Island has successfully done so--for now. Still other emerged (landside) or submerged (Gulfside) "ghostal barriers" can some-times be traced along the southwestern coast using topographic profiles on either side of existing islands.

Earliest basement island formation may date to the end of the Pleistocene Epoch, about 10,000-12,000 years BP, but most are believed to be no more than 5,000 years in age, and thus formed during the Late Archaic

Archaeological Period. Their creation, however, still continues today as the islands accrete or erode depending on the rate and magnitude of sand deposition or removal caused by marine (waves, currents, tides), atmospheric (nor'westers, hurricanes), or eustatic (changes in sea levels) processes. It is safe to say that Late Archaic aboriginals would have a difficult time determining exactly where their once familiar islands are located today.

"Punta de Muspa" (the oldest published name for Cape Romano), terminates the aforementioned Coastal Barrier Chain. This land-form was always considered a "Key" or a "Point" (i.e. Cape) in the early historic maps and literature. But geologically and oceanographically, Cape Romano was itself once a coastal barrier island. Thanks to oceanographic processes it "continued" its development adding first an elongate shoal and then becoming a sagittiform cape. Cape Muspa's accretionary growth and dangerous shoals were well known to Spanish mariners in the 1500s, and continues today, as a visit to the southern tip so dramatically illustrates. The exposed position of the Cape-shoal, and subsequent colonization by mangrove forests, probably accounts for the relatively weak development of onshore sand dunes. Capes such as Muspa-Romano, in this sense, can be considered "headlands in

waiting" that in the interim have developed a terminating beach and projecting shoal. Such a situation at a much earlier time may have also defined an erstwhile "Cape Marco" perhaps now lying buried beneath layers of limestone and littoral-drifted sand. Other

PAGE THREE

"ex-capes" include "Cape Sanybel," "Cape Punta Rassa," and "Cape Pinellas" farther north.

Neither Cape Romano, Marco Island, the present-day coastal barrier sisters of Little Marco, Cannon-Coconut-Sea Oat, Keywadin, nor even the once-upon-a-time headland of Naples are part of the Ten Thousand Islands. Instead, the latter were formed in the sediment shadow of Cape Romano. Although the geological, hydrological and oceanographic processes that occurred were similar to those that formed coastal barriers, they took place in the sheltered estuarine waters of Florida Bay. And, although their exact role is still being argued, biological processes were an important adjunct that helps clarify the distinction between formation of Gulf Coastal Barrier Islands and the Ten Thousand Islands.

For example, all along the central and southern peninsular coasts certain species of marine gastropod molluscs ("snails") and marine polychaete worms form "worm rock" or "worm reefs" consisting of coalesced colonies (cementaria) of shells or sand-

tubes, respectively. Further colony coalescence forms large living and dead calcareous reef-like platforms called bioherms. Bioherms act as barriers or baffles to waves, longshore currents or tidal flows. When such water movements are slowed sufficiently by living or dead cementaria they tend to drop their sediment loads in front of, on top of, or behind the bioherms. These accreting sediments, in turn, become shoals, which may encourage the formation of more bioherms, which (in a completion of the circle) may eventually lead to beach-ridge barrier island development. This appears to be what took place in the Indian River region on the central eastern Florida coast, and is still taking place on the northeastern point of Key Biscayne. Curiously, Marco Island is almost a mirror image of Key Biscayne (where Cape Florida is located) but evidence for bioherm development has not yet been forthcoming. This may be because here on the southwestern coast such island-birthing platforms apparently form only in the sheltered lagoons behind, rather than seaside to, previously established coastal barriers. How much they may have aided in the maintenance of coastal barrier islands, and the insular supporting role they may have played during earlier sea level risings and fallings remains conjectural.

An analogous situation takes place in the "true" Ten Thousand Islands region which is

located to the east of Cape Romano and extends to Cape Sable. Here, however, the hydrological processes occur in relatively more shallow and protected waters, and are not marine but estuarine, caused by massive outflows of freshwater



Fig. 1. Marco Island, early 1950s.

Note the concave beach ridges facing the Gulf of Mexico. The cuspidate shape shows more clearly than words the effects of oceanographic processes on the island/headland. Note that "Cape Cocunut island" (white arrow) was still in existence. (USACE photograph)

pouring off the mainland and mixing with marine waters of the Gulf sweeping past the "Point of Muspa" into Florida Bay. These

PAGE FOUR

freshwater flows were once so extensive that they were designated as "aguadas"

("watering places") and "Camimbas" (freshwater-well beaches) on many early maps. Sailing vessels from the 16th through 19th centuries routinely filled their water kegs from these outflows. Estuarine conditions, coupled with appropriate seafloor sediment sizes (muds and clays) and accumulations, plus normally low wave activity, allowed development of extensive oyster bars. Living and dead oyster bars, just as worm rock and worm reefs, also act as sediment baffles, fostering shoal formation, but with one important addition-- subsequent colonization by mangroves. Development of mangroves on the oyster bars led to the typical reticulated-islet pattern that characterizes the region today. Mangrove roots are also excellent sediment baffles so that the system became a feedback loop of sediment inflow and deposition, building shoals, and leading to further oyster bar development and eventually to islet formation.

We live on a coastline in flux. While an unknown number of coastal barriers were forming and coalescing Gulfside over thousands of years, similar sediment entrapment coupled with oyster bar formation, and subsequent mangrove islet growth led to the formation of the geologically and phytographically different "9,994 Islands" that today margin the peninsular coast around Florida Bay. The aboriginals living then

and there may not have made much of such a distinction--but we should.

WHO USED TO BE WHO IN ARCHAEOLOGY??? by Steve Tutko

Sir Leonard Woolley, a brilliant British field archaeologist, b.1880, d. 1960, spent most of his career excavating various sites in the Middle East, beginning in Nubia in 1907. Although he also worked at the ancient Egyptian site of Tell el-AMARNA, Woolley's major projects were elsewhere. In 1912 he assumes leadership of the CARCHMISH excavations. From southeastern Turkey and northern Syria, Woolley shifted to Mesopotamia in 1922. Renowned for his excavations at UR, he systematically exposed, over 13 years, a sequence covering millennia but known best for its Sumerian remains. He returned to Syria in 1936 and, from then until 1949, devoted himself to excavations at ALALAKH and Al Mina, work that greatly elucidated local and inter-regional events especially of the 2nd and 1st millennia B.C. An interesting side person to this article is the fact that Woolley was assisted at CARCHMISH by none other than T.E. Lawrence, A.K.A. Lawrence of Arabia (1888-1935). Lawrence went from archaeology to the British Military Intelligence Service, in Cairo, at

the beginning of World War I.

DIG THIS...

by Steve Tutko

On April 22, 1999 we will celebrate Earth Day once again. This should be a reflective time for all of us to contemplate what has happened in the environment, political situations, and of course archaeological news such as the Tequesta Indian circle in Miami. It's amazing what can happen in one year, and all the ramifications that go along with it. Good and bad. We should always be aware of how and what we do while our time on the Earth goes forth. This leads me to a book that I always enjoy reading. **THE EARTH SPEAKS**, by Steve Van Matre and Bill Weiler, published by the Institute for Earth Education, ISBN # 0-917011-00-7. Some of the chapters which include the collective writings of many people, are as follows: Earth Magic, EarthWisdom, and Earth Spirit. Who really speaks for the Earth? WE ALL DO!

PAGE FIVE



Don't You Sometimes Secretly Wish We Could Dig Like This?: Unusual custom-made "shovel" on a small earthmover excavating to plant a gumbo-limbo tree at the Olde Marco Inn

PINELAND TOURS

The Randell Research Center is offering archaeological tours of the Pineland site. The Pineland site is a 240-acre Calusa Indian village that consists of five mounds over 20 feet in height. The tours focus on the lives and technology of the Calusa Indians. People will see how cords, nets and shell tools were manufactured and will sort through samples of ancient middens to identify and interpret the diet of the Calusas. The relationship between the Calusa culture and the environment is stressed, said archaeologist Corbett Torrence. Tours will be held Saturdays at 10a.m. Admission costs \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Reservations can be made by calling 941-283-2062.

MAY MEETING

Anne Reynolds will be the May speaker at the Community Hall in Bonita Springs. Her topic will be "The Growth of the Kissimmee Valley Archaeological Conservancy".

The meeting will be held on May 19 at 7:30 P.M. at the Bonita Springs Community, at the corner of Old 41 and Reynolds Street. Anne is a graduate of Florida South College, a 32 year resident of Florida and President and Educational Chairperson of the Conservancy

She also was instrumental in the passing of an Archaeological Ordinance as part of the Highland County Comprehensive Plan

For further information call 941-587-2269

CRAIGHEAD LAB REPORT by Ella May Ablahat

Archaeology Month is past and we did have many interested visitors, some of whom learned more about the Calusa Indians than they expected. And we didn't get any new recruits. Maybe they don't know of the rewards of this work.

We have oodles of shell fragments which have to be processed and guess who's going to do the job! dedicated amateur archaeologists. Besides the thrill of the work one of the rewards is a shiny bronze plaque bearing the name of the

recipient who has added up more than 200 hours of work. Or many, many more.

To date, these are Art Lee, Lynn Lee, Jean Belknap, Walt Buschelman, Jack Thompson, John Dante & Ella May Ablahat. Three names have been added to the award list. They are Betsy McCarthy, Jan Gooding and Lois Polewka. Does anyone out there want to try for this award?



Recipients of 200 Hrs. award, from left to right, Betsy McCarthy & Jan Gooding. (Not pictured) Lois Polewka.

A Lady from Texas brought in a statuette of an Indian asking (the Lady not the Indian) for information. She was pleased to learn that it was a plains Indian probably from the period after contact with settlers because of the metal used for decoration. And probably of 20th Century make.

PAGE SIX



Construction Work on a Site:
Typical examples of what you can see going on at a construction site if you are monitoring. Tree moving and other activities at the Olde Marco Inn.

Archaeology on the Web

By Linda Ballou

Urban legends, those folkloric tales that appear mysteriously and spread spontaneously, abound on the internet. The following letter has been circulating for years. Probably originally composed as a humorous spoof, it has accumulated various introductory explanations claiming, "this is an actual letter from the archives of the Smithsonian," or "this oddball archeologist really exists and does this in his spare time." One version maintains "a Smithsonian employee took a copy of it home to show her husband and he put it on the internet". In truth, the Smithsonian has no paleoanthropology division and no curator named Harvey Rowe. P.T. Barnum would have loved the World Wide Web.

Paleoanthropology Division
Smithsonian Institute
207 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20078

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your latest submission to the Institute, labeled "211-D, layer seven, next to the clothesline post. Hominid skull."

We have given this specimen a careful and detailed examination, and regret to inform you that we disagree with your theory that it represents "conclusive proof of the presence of Early Man in Charleston County two million years ago."

Rather, it appears that what you have found is the head of a Barbie doll, of the variety one of our staff, who has small children, believes to be the "Malibu Barbie".

It is evident that you have given a great deal of thought to the analysis of this specimen, and you may be quite certain that those of us who are familiar with your prior work in the field were loathe to come to contradiction with your findings. However, we do feel that there are a number of physical attributes of the specimen which might have tipped you off to its modern origin:

1. The material is molded plastic. Ancient hominid remains are typically fossilized bone.
2. The cranial capacity of the specimen is approximately 9 cubic centimeters, well below the threshold of even the earliest identified proto-hominids.
3. The dentition pattern evident on the "skull" is more consistent with the common domesticated dog than it is with the "ravenous man-eating Pliocene clams" you speculate roamed the wetlands during that time.

This latter finding is certainly one of the most intriguing hypotheses you have submitted in your history with this institution, but the evidence seems to weigh rather heavily against it. Without going into too much detail, let us say that: A. The specimen looks

PAGE SEVEN

like the head of a Barbie doll that

a dog has chewed on. B. Clams don't have teeth.

It is with feelings tinged with melancholy that we must deny your request to have the specimen carbon dated. This is partially due to the heavy load our lab must bear in its normal operation, and partly due to carbon dating's notorious inaccuracy in fossils of recent geologic record. To the best of our knowledge, no Barbie dolls were produced prior to 1956 AD, and carbon dating is likely to produce wildly inaccurate results. Sadly, we must also deny your request that we approach the National Science Foundation's Phylogeny Department with the concept of assigning your specimen the scientific name "Australopithecus spiff-arino." Speaking personally, I, for one, fought tenaciously for the acceptance of your proposed taxonomy, but was ultimately voted down because the species name you selected was hyphenated, and didn't really sound like it might be Latin.

However, we gladly accept your generous donation of this fascinating specimen to the museum. While it is undoubtedly not a hominid fossil, it is, nonetheless, yet another riveting example of the great body of work you seem to accumulate here so effortlessly. You should know that our Director has reserved a special shelf in his own office for the display of the specimens you have previously submitted to the Institution, and the entire staff speculates daily on what you will

happen upon next in your digs at the site you have discovered in your back yard. We eagerly anticipate your trip to our nation's capital that you proposed in your last letter, and several of us are pressing the Director to pay for it. We are particularly interested in hearing you expand on your theories surrounding the "trans-positating fillifitation of ferrous ions in a structural matrix" that makes the excellent juvenile Tyrannosaurus rex femur you recently discovered take on the deceptive appearance of a rusty 9-mm Sears Craftsman automotive crescent wrench.

Yours in Science,

Harvey Rowe
Curator, Antiquities

—

NEWSLETTER

PAGE EIGHT

JOHN G. BERIAULT, acting editor

Volume No. 15

Issue No. 5

MAY, 1999