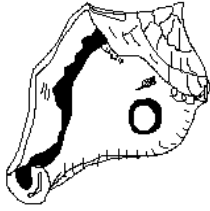


# SWFAS



## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### *Inside this Newsletter*

#### **1 Anne Reynolds Speaks:**

See what Art Lee has to say about it...

#### **2 Where the Heck is Downtown Abaioa?**

Dr. Robert Gore unravels a centuries-old mystery...

#### **7 Barnes Lot Days -** See your Friends and Neighbors at Play there...



**What the Shell Is That?** Montage of shell refuse from the spoil of Trench B-1, the Barnes Lot, Marco Island

## **ANNE REYNOLDS SPEAKS TO SWFAS AT MAY MEETING**

"Educate, educate, educate!"

That was the message of

Anne Reynolds, president of the Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historical Conservancy when she addressed SWFAS May 19.

Using examples from the productive work of the eight-year-old organization, she explained how acquainting various elements of the public with the archaeology of the region has resulted in the identification and subsequent preservation of many important sites. Among the most important messages her group has carried to their public was to assure landowners that no one was going to steal their treasures, that anything found on their property belonged to them, and that they would not be denied use of their land.

By working with collectors, the Kissimmee group has been able to identify and record a number of sites, a great aid in establishing the land- and materials-use of the Indians who had occupied the area since the paleo period.

The group used a non-confrontational approach in cooperating with county officials in the establishment of land-use regulations; an aid in land-use matters is the fact that much of the land is locally owned.

Educational work with school children has resulted in the registration of a number of sites; at least one of the students with whom they have worked is pointing his advanced studies toward archaeology. An arrangement with the Walker

Memorial Junior Academy at Avon Park has resulted in a recent joint curation workshop and lab day and cooperation in preparation of a data base containing information from sites the society has explored. The KVAHC has a meeting and display room at Lake Placid Extension of South Florida Community College.

In connection with the latest Archaeology Month the group dedicated a mural, 16 by 80 feet in size on the side of a Lake Placid building, painted for it by artist Dean Quigley. The first section of the mural shows a mastodon hunt in the central part of Florida 12,000 years ago, the second has an early man hunting a deer, and the last shows an archaeology dig with a profile containing artifacts. Lake Placid has 27 murals, and there is a printed guide to them prepared by the Lake Placid Mural Society

Since its inception, the group has worked closely with Robert Austin, Ph.D, a professional archaeologist currently editor of the quarterly journal of the Florida Anthropological Society, *The Florida Anthropologist*.

Mrs. Reynolds has dug two seasons in Israel, and has visited some of the more important archaeological sites of France. She is KVAHC's representative to the FAS board of directors. She illustrated her talk with slides and an assortment of photos.

The day after her talk, she and her husband, Charles, visited

the Collier County Museum and the SWFAS lab, with which her organization has had relations for years: its current vice president and newsletter editor, Chuck and Jane Wilde, respectively, attended an extended course in lab techniques and a later one on bone identification.

Art Lee

**THE DATEBOOK**  
**June 9th - SWFAS Board of Directors Meeting**, Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 6:30 PM  
**June 16th - 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).

PAGE TWO



**POTSHERDS AND POTSHOTS... AN ONGOING SERIES BY ROBERT GORE**

**WHERE WAS ABAIOA? PONCE DE LEON, ARAWAKS, CAPES AND OCEANOGRAPHY**

by Dr. Robert H. Gore

The name Abaioa was first noted by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513 for an Indian village supposedly located in the neighborhood of a "Cabo de Corrientes" somewhere on the east coast of Florida. According to Antonio Herrera who published a narrative of Ponce's journal in 1601:

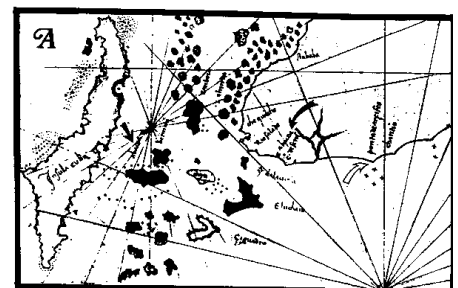
"On Sunday, the 8th of May, they [the Ponce expedition] doubled the cape of La Florida, which they named Cabo de Corrientes, because the water ran so swift there that it had more force than

the wind, and would not allow the ships to go forward, although they put out all sails. They anchored behind a cape close to a village

called Abaioa. All this coast from Punta de Arracifes as far as this Cabo de Corrientes runs north and south a quarter by southeast . . . and the cape is in twenty-eight degrees and fifteen minutes [of latitude]."

The current that had "more force than the wind" has been conventionally accepted to be the northward flowing Florida Current, one of the founding components of the Gulf Stream System. That's the easy part. All the other locations are more contentious.

The toponym Abaioa is both a curiosity and an enigma. The earliest cartographical occurrence was on the Freducci map of 1514-1515, the only chart contemporaneous with Ponce's "discovery of Florida." "Abaioa" (or "Abacoa" if the curved letter? fill is interpreted as a "c") appears twice. The name is written first next to an island presumably in the Bahamas and off the north-eastern coast of Cuba. If this toponym refers to the present islands of Abaco(a) the landforms are geographically grossly misplaced.



**Abaloa as seen on the Freducci Map of 1514-1515 (twice!), Once**

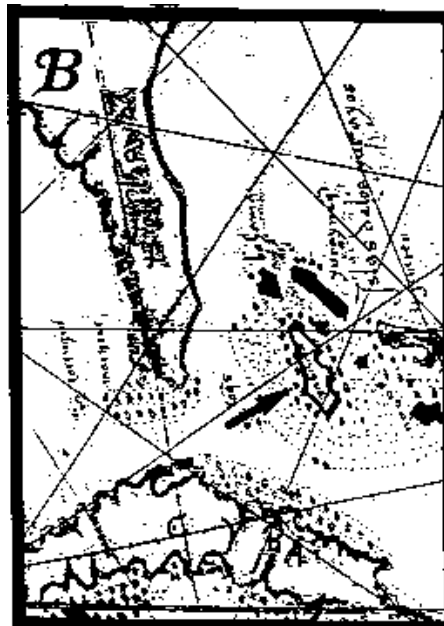
near the position of the Turks and Caicos Islands, above the north coast of Cuba, and, once on the southeast Florida coast. North, in this depiction, is to the right, not at top as is usual.

**Figures 1 to 3.** "Abaioa" and Probable Orthographic Variations on Portions of Early Maps. A) The Conti de Ottomano Freducci Map(1514-1515). Straight solid arrow: the "island" of "Abacoa;" Curved solid arrow: the peninsular toponym "Abaioa;" Curved open arrow: "Punta de Arcifes" [sic]. Copied and modified from True, 1954, after the original; B) The Juan Vespucci Map (1526). Arrow indicates the island of "Yabacoa." Copied and modified from Cumming, 1962; C) The Hieronymus Chiaves Map (1584). Arrow indicates the island of "Aboa." Modified from a copy made by the Library of Congress.

Ironically, the Bahamanian islands of "Abacoa" were indeed coasted (but apparently neither named nor examined) by Juan Ponce on that erroneously famous Easter Sunday, March 27th, 1513. In fact, the conjoined islands of Great and Little Abaco(a) lay five days travel time from his equally famous peninsular landfall the following Friday, the one that did lead to the "discovery" and naming of La Florida. Of more import to our

**PAGE THREE**

story, the name appears again on the Freducci map on the mainland of the lower southeastern peninsula of Florida.



**Abaloa as seen on another map of the Freducci era, the Juan Vespucci Map of 1526.** This time near the present-day position of Andros Island (in relation to Florida). North is to the top.

It was this positioning that created subsequent confusion, as we shall see.

In any event, Abacoa, or any orthographic variant, did not appear on several maps that were published subsequent to Ponce's voyage (Maiollo, 1527; Verrazano, 1528; Ribero, 1529, Alonzo de Santa Cruz, 1545). Then, on the Hieronymus Chiaves' map (1574), was clearly depicted the Bahamanian island of "Aboa".



**The Hieronymus Chaves Map of 1574 showing the Bahamian Island**

of "Aboa" North is to the top.

The similarities in orthography between Abaioa, Abacoa, and Aboa are intriguingly close enough to suggest that the toponym was a compounded cartographers' and chronicler's lapsus calami, or slip of the pen. Thereafter, Abaioa did not appear on some two dozen maps, and over the ensuing four centuries became a nomen oblitum, or forgotten name. Until 1978.

At this time another spelling variant, "Abaibo," was introduced and expanded by an anthropologist into an "Arawak" village of unspecified location in southeastern Florida. The tripartite implication was that 1) the name was purportedly "Arawakan;" and thus 2) "Abaibo" was an Arawakan village maintained under the noblesse oblige of Senquene, "father" of the noted Calusan chieftain that history knows as Calos; and 3) therefore was presumably located within the Calusan dominion of mainland south Florida. Unfortunately, no data were presented in support and in any case these arguments are circular. For example, Herrera's narrative of the Ponce voyage supports none of these suppositions; nor does the more widely known Memoir of Hernando de Escalente Fontaneda, the Cartagenan youth who was held captive for 17 years by Calos. True enough, Escalente Fontaneda did draw attention to Senquene's sequestering of an

unnamed people from Cuba at some unnamed place, but whether they were Arawaks, Tainos, Guanahatabeys, or some other tribal group, Caribbean or otherwise, was never specified, nor was any mention made of their language.

Where, then, might the village of Abaioa-Abacoa-Aboa-Abaibo have been located? Because Juan Ponce made only a half dozen landfalls during his epic first expedition, and did not travel far inland from the coast, there are few locations available to pinpoint the town. Ponce never sailed interior to Los Martyres (Florida Keys), nor the Point of Muspa (Cape Romano), thereby allowing elimination of any location in the 9,994 Islands-Florida Bay-Cape Sable area at the peninsular tip. Inasmuch as Ponce anchored only briefly off the southwestern peninsular coast, and made no

#### **PAGE FOUR**

mention of any village names (being too busy repelling Calusan or Muspan boarders) that locality can also be dismissed. That leaves the southeastern coast north of Los Martyres as a potential location. Here again we get some ambivalent help from Herrera who seemingly gave an accurate latitude for the Cape.

Cabo de Corrientes has been imputed to be present-day Cape Canaveral based on both indirect and direct evidence.

Considering the first, Herrera noted that the coast on which Abaioa lay "runs north and south a quarter by southeast;" viz. almost south by southeast, from a "Punta de Arracifes [Point of Reefs] as far as this Cabo de Corrientes. . . ." Juan Ponce was certainly sailing southward after his Eastertide landfall somewhere along the northeastern peninsula. And, there is only one stretch of the eastern peninsula that runs nearly south by southeast. Assuming that the Punta de Arracifes marked the indeterminate head of the Florida Keys certainly could imply that Abaioa lay somewhere between, say, Key Largo and Cape Canaveral. But was the Punta de Arracifes referring to the Florida Keys? Or was it instead a reference to the well-known sabellariid worm reefs and exposed Anastasian limestone tables that

litter the surf zone from Jupiter Inlet northward to Cape Canaveral? These tabular bioherms are particularly prevalent and conspicuous today at the mouth of the St. Lucie (River) Inlet. Perhaps coincidentally, Ponce is believed to have made a landfall at or near this inlet, bestowing the name "Rio de La Cruz" to the conjunction of the St. Lucie and Indian Rivers. The water, according to the account, was brackish.

More solid ground appears in the clearly stated latitudinal

location (28 degrees 15 minutes) in Herrera's narrative. At first glance this suggests that Abaioa lay near or behind Cape Canaveral, the point of which lies at about 28 degrees 30 minutes. If so, this would place Abaioa far up the peninsula from Sanquene's presumable jurisdiction, and into that of the Ays Indians instead. However, Herrera's listing of latitudes taken from Ponce's log, and particularly that for Cabo de Corrientes/Cape Canaveral has been dismissed by at least one authority as being nothing more than guesswork at worst, or dead reckoning at best caused by Ponce's imprecise sextant determinations. An additional complication is that in Herrera's narrative the Cabo de Corrientes toponym was also clearly equated to the Cape [of La] Florida. Herrera's somewhat free-wheeling use of toponyms, written nearly a century after their discovery, exacerbates the confusion because there are at least a half dozen 16th and 17th century maps, and at least two clear references in the 18th century historical literature, that place Cape (La) Florida on the southeastern (rather than east central) Florida coast. This confounding of Cape toponyms may have led to the supposition that Abaibo was located within the Calusan domaine, while at the same time dismisses the Tequesta as players in this little drama. But does it strengthen the case for the village's location near or equal to Cape Canaveral? Not necessarily

as we shall see.

Let us, for the moment, hold in abeyance the descriptively named Cabo de Corrientes and consider instead the more broadly nominate Cape [La] Florida. Potential geographic sites on the southeastern peninsular coast include a) the elongate barrier spit of present-day Miami Beach; b) Key Biscayne (where today's Cape Florida is located); and c) the southern tip of Key Largo. In our next article we shall briefly examine each of these "Floridan" landforms and provide some tantalizing oceanographic hints on how Juan Ponce's "Cabo de Corrientes" not only might be applicable to at least two of them, but also may help in locating the lost village of Abaloa.

the above article copyright Dr. Robert H. Gore, written permission required to reproduce

## **PAGE FIVE**

# **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 axe 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 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 faster 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 firsthand 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 Mattoon Marina on Waterfront Drive. Site tours run for about one and 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 Captive 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,

**PAGE SIX**

providing an on-the-water, Calusa perspective. Tours last about two hours. A tax-deductible donation of \$30.00 per person is required for participation. All kayaks and necessary equipment are provided by the Captive 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.



**Unidentified "Large Fellow" helps out at Barnes Lot Project** Where do we find these strange volunteers ? Photo courtesy of Barbara Tansey



**We're A-searching, Ever, ever, ever Whicha Way...**Volunteers from the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida at the Barnes Lot, Marco Island



**Good illustration of the Strata at Barnes:** Midden mantle followed by the shell substrate with a post mold in the lower center right (vertical linear dark area)



**Don't Provenience under that Gumbo Limbo Tree with Anyone Else but Me:** Column Sample from Trench C-1, Barnes Lot, ready to be loaded Up and taken for Analysis

PAGE SEVEN

## JUNE MEETING

Susan White will be the speaker at the June 16th meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. Her topic will be "The Prehistoric Pottery of Southwest Florida". The society meets at the Bonita Springs Community Center at the corner of Old Highway 41 and Reynolds Street at 7:30 P.M.

She is Archaeologist, Historic Resources for Sarasota County. Under the direction of archaeologist William Marquardt, she received her Masters Degree from the University of Florida. Her experience in prehistoric pottery has focused on technological and formal analysis.

Avocational and professional archaeologists and those interested in history are welcome to attend. Call 941-597-2269 for further information.

# NEWSLETTER

**JOHN G. BERIAULT, acting editor**

**Volume No. 15**

**Issue No. 6**

**JUNE, 1999**