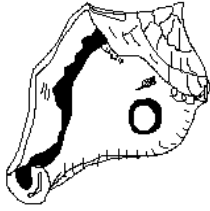


# SWFAS



**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

## *Inside this Newsletter*

### **1 Hooray For the NEW**

**Computer!:** SWFAS has a New Addition - and it's ELECTRONIC! Read Below...

### **3 The Fountain of Youth:**

Part One: WHERE would YOU like to go Swimming? Read Dr. Robert Gore...

### **5 Dr. Febles Wins**

**Guggenheim Fellowship:** Read Linda Ballou's Article about "Our Man in Havana"



**You Press**

**Which Button???** Reading from left to right: Capt'n Carl Johnson, Art Lee and Jack Thompson conferring over the new computer at the Craighead Lab: Photo courtesy of Ella May Ablahat

## **THE NEW COMPUTER ARRIVES**

## **- AND IS PUT TO WORK AT THE CRAIGHEAD LAB**

The Craighead Laboratory of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society is now the proud possessor of a new computer. Readers will recall that a plaintive plea went out just a short while ago for a used replacement to the venerable system employed in the Lab for several years. The monitor had died on the old unit rendering it useless. The SWFAS board of Directors, knowing both the need and the important work being done at the Lab voted the funds to purchase a brand-new computer. One very generous and kind board member and her husband even went so far as to "make up" the difference between what the Board voted and what the computer ultimately cost! Your editor (acting) sent an Email to Art Lee asking him for more particulars on the new computer and its proposed use/function. Here is his reply:

John,

The computer is a Hewlett Packard. It has monitor, scanner, and printer, the latter two of low capacity, i.e. not made for volume work. The computer has Intel 633 and 4.5 gigabytes of memory on the C drive. Its main job will be to analyze material from digs. After artifacts have been identified as to type and counted, that information will go to the machine where it will be tabulated and cross

compared, i.e. quantities and types will be related to depths and associations with other materials. The analyses should relieve the staff of a good deal of pencil and calculator work with greater accuracy and speed. Its publishing software is capable of preparing the information for the printing press. This work has been done in past by Carl Johnson but his other work load has increased, leaving less time for SWFAS. Our hope is to materially decrease the amount of time between the hand work and the production of reports. First, of course, will be learning to operate the equipment. Although it is similar to machines owned by Jack and Ella May, it does not have exactly their programs and is foreign to me (editor's note: Art uses a Macintosh). We take great satisfaction in knowing that it has the speed and memory to handle all work that we can foresee. One of our challenges was getting it installed so that it could be placed safely in the closet when not in use. It now sits atop and underneath a wheeled cart which just clears the doorway, yet is immediately usable when brought into the main lab room.

**Art**

### **JOHN BERIAULT TO SPEAK AT AUGUST 18th MEETING ON RECENT WORK AT KEY MARCO**

John Beriault, acting editor of this Newsletter and long-time SWFAS member will be the speaker at the August 18th meeting. He intends

to speak and present slides on some of the recent archaeological activities taking place during the last year or so at the famous Key Marco Shell Midden Site (8CR48) on the northern tip of Marco Island in Collier County. Beriault, and many volunteers from both the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society and the Marco Island Historical Society worked on three different projects and again as many project phases - all within several hundred yards of the Court of the Pile Dwellers, the location of Frank Hamilton Cushing's fabulous finds of preserved wooden masks and other ceremonial paraphernalia in 1896. The most recent projects have added valuable data to what had been known about the shell mound (which until then had been little investigated). Beriault's work coincides with and supports Dr. Randolph Widmer's three excellent projects on the same site. One of the exciting aspects of this work is the cooperative nature of the work by the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy (Beriault's employer), a private, non-profit archaeological corporation, and Dr. Widmer.

## Yawl Been Great, But...

It's amazing how much time in the life of an acting editor is spent rectifying (if that's the word I want...), that is, basically trying to patch together a disparate series of articles to make a finely-finished product such as a quilt, a jigsaw puzzle...or a Newsletter. I had this

small bit of space and thought I would use it to good effect.

I want to thank all of you who have helped me with your contributions, whether it be articles you have written, announcements, responses (that I can use in the Newsletter), or a great photo of

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some of the members doing their "thing" (see front cover - thanks, Ella May!). The point is, keep those cards and letters coming. There's always room for your contribution, if not in the current issue, then in the next. Don't forget to *type* your contribution and either mail or Email (in the body of the Email) - so I can either scan or "paste". Thanks!

### THE DATEBOOK

**August 11th - SWFAS Board of Directors Meeting**, Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 6:30 PM

**August 18th - 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).



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

### SENQUENE, SEQUESTERING, AND FOUNTAINS OF YOUTH: PART I

In 1575 Hernando de Escalente Fontaneda, once a Cartagenan castaway and subsequent prisoner-cum-slave-cum-emissary of the notorious chieftain Calos, made a series of written statements about a "River of Jordan" somewhere in Florida which have caused no small amount of bafflement to anthropologists ever since. Alluding to an imprecisely defined "people of the Jordan" Escalente Fontaneda both defined and at the same time pooh-poohed this miraculous river:

"The Jordan that is talked of, is a superstition of the Indians of Cuba, which they hold to because it is their creed, not because there is such a river."

Nonetheless, he also noted (with

not a little amusement) that Juan Ponce de Leon apparently put at least some credibility in the Cuban and Hispaniolan Indians' tale concerning this river, so much so that (among other reasons) he:

"...went to Florida In search of the River Jordan. . . that he might become young from bathing in such a stream..."

Ponce de Leon was not the only dupe. Apparently "the kings and caciques of Florida" fell under the spell of restorative waters, so much so that:

" . . .there remained not a river nor a brook in all Florida, not even lakes and ponds, in which they did not bathe; and to this day they persist In seeking that water, and are never satisfied."

Escalente Fontaneda is thus a prime source for the "Fountain of Youth" legend associated with Juan Ponce de Leon. This, of course, is old news.

Another, and anthropologically more important, statement follows in Escalente Fontaneda's account that describes an immigration incident and at the same time raises a series of questions that still remain unanswered today. Escalente Fontaneda wrote:

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"Anciently, many Indians from Cuba entered the ports of the Province of Carlos in search of

[the River Jordan]; and the father of King Carlos, whose name was Senquene, stopped those persons and made a settlement of them, the descendants of whom remain to this day."

A few of the questions that arise from this statement include: 1) Who were the "Cuban" Indians? 2) Where might they have landed in Florida? 3) Once ashore, did they know where to go or were they winging it? 4) Why and where did Senquene sequester them? Let's take them one at a time.

1. " . . . many Indians from Cuba entered. . . "

First and foremost, the arrival of Antillean Indians in Florida is not much in doubt. Legends are always based on some small fact, and the fact that Escalente Fontaneda heard the legend, laughed off its reasons but not its existence, and at the same time noted Senquene's participation in it but not that cacique's reasons thereof, all provides circumstantial evidence of Antillean Indian arrival at some point in time. Exactly when this took place is more conjectural. Senquene (who, by the way was not Carlos' father, but uncle) was probably alive and well in the early 1500s. Escalente Fontaneda was not taken captive until sometime around 1545. Because his fealty was to Calos and not to Senquene indicates that the latter was out of

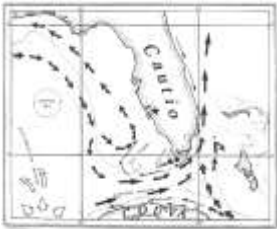
the picture either in a governing sense or because he had died by the time Escalente Fontaneda began his 17 year captivity. But that emphatically does not mean that Antillean immigration had not been occurring long prior to Senquene's regime. Senquene was, at least in a historical sense, merely the first to do something about it.

Anthropological evidence suggests that the "Cuban Indians" may have been Tainos, or Guanahatabeys, or perhaps at various times members of both groups. All inhabited coastal and inland Cuba, and Taino subgroups also occurred on the nearby islands of Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, and the Bahama Islands. The possibility that even Island Caribs from the Lesser Antilles were involved also cannot be dismissed. In any case, these peoples were all accomplished seafarers, so traveling to Florida from any of the Antillean islands would not have been any big deal.

2. "In the attainment of the promises of their faith, those of Cuba determined, for such was their vow, to venture their lives on that sea;"

Did these seafarers really know where they were going? On the ocean, probably yes. Knowledge of the Bahamas and the Floridan peninsula was extant--the Lucayan Tainos had even named Florida Cautio supposedly in reference to the fashionable palm frond-tailed

breech clout some of the peninsular males were wearing. Utilizing existing ocean currents including the Gulf Stream system and the Antilles Current, the Antilleans could have landed pretty much anywhere on the southwestern, southern, or southeastern coasts, but probably more within the southern region of the peninsula than farther north. Based on minimal distances from Cuba/Hispaniola the limestone islands of the Marquesas, Tortugas, and Florida Keys offered the nearest stopping places, but Punta de Muspa (Cape Romano), Punta Tancha (Cape Sable), and the Calusan stronghold Estampaba on the mainland could also be reached relatively easily when the currents and winds were right. Travel time might take one or two weeks at most. Nor need the journey have been non-stop. Layovers using the lower Bahamas, or the aforementioned Florida Keys reef-tract islands would allow respite, food, and water after weeks at sea.



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**Figure 1: Sea Map to Cautio.**  
 Hollow Arrows = Caribbean Current; Large Solid Arrows = Gulf Stream System; Thin Arrows = Coastal-Longshore Currents.  
 Star = Estampaba; Circle

= Tequescha; Large Dots = Guarangunve and Cuchiyaga. Redrawn and modified from T. W. Vaughan, 1910. Publs. Carnegie Inst. Washington.

3. “. . . the Indians of Cuba and its whole neighborhood. . . to satisfy their tradition, said that the Jordan was in Florida. . .”

Whether the seekers of youth knew where they were going once they got ashore seems less certain. The Floridan peninsula is a big land mass, filled at that time with thousands of confusing waterways and water bodies, not to mention carnivorous water-dwelling animals, and truculent waterside humans. It was not the kind of place in which any sane Antillean "foreigner" would want to stumble around--particularly without being able to speak the local lingo, and having a map or some sense of direction and location of his fonticuline goal. The question central to all of this, of course, is how the legend of a youth-bestowing fountain got started, and then reinforced. One wonders, for example, whether any Antillean ever returned to Cuba or Hispaniola with credible evidence of newly acquired youth (however it might have been defined), and where and how the others might have attained it. That rejuvenated individual would undoubtedly have been quite popular among the villagers, especially if he gave reasonably accurate directions to other youthful wannabees. The

opposite side of that sea biscuit is that if some immigrants did get out of Florida alive the consequent tales of survival and hardship were apparently not sufficiently off-putting to dissuade others from wanting to vacation in the first superannuated Magic Kingdom on the peninsula.

If Escalente Fontaneda was accurately reporting the situation (and there is no reason to believe otherwise), and considering that Ponce de Leon got his information from Hispaniolan natives, the legend for water-induced remission of age was widespread enough to affect, at least in a moderate degree, the general aboriginal populace living within some 774,000 square miles of the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and lower North Atlantic Ocean. Not a bad spread for a legend. We'll continue this ruminating romp next month and consider possibilities for evil in some of South Florida's aboriginal villages.

Stay tuned . . . COPYRIGHT, DR. ROBERT H. GORE  
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## Our Man in Havana Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

by Linda Ballou

Jorge Febles Dueñas, SWFAS honorary member in Cuba, was recently awarded a Fellowship

from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in New York. The grant is to assist him to engage in research on the application of new information and communication technologies to archaeology.

The Foundation grants Fellowships through two annual competitions: one for citizens and permanent residents of the United States and Canada; the other for citizens and permanent residents of Latin America and the Caribbean. From a pool of over 400 applicants for the Latin American and Caribbean Fellowships, Señor Febles was one of just 34 selected to receive the award.

The Guggenheim Fellowships are awarded to persons who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts. In his capacity as Research Professor at the Center for Anthropology in Havana, Febles has designed computer programs for compiling archaeological data, produced a CD Rom on Cuban archaeology,

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and authored many papers on innovative uses of computer technology in archaeology. Last year Febles was elected as a Titular Academician of the Cuban Academy of Sciences.

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**Archaeology on the**

## **Web**

By Linda Ballou

Planning a trip to the Miami/Ft. Lauderdale area? The Archaeological Institute of America's South Florida chapter, AIAsouthFL, maintains a web site that might alert you to an interesting archaeological event you could attend while you're there.

AIAsouthFL presents programs to encourage the study of archaeology as well as noting events offered by other local organizations. ("Local" in this case meaning southeast Florida only). Their site currently lists a series of public lectures and slide shows taking place at the Ft. Lauderdale Main Library. These include a University of Miami art historian's talk on "Crocodile Men of the Sepik River, New Guinea"; a museum lecturer's discussion of the "Ecuadorian Presence in Ancient West Mexico: Cloth, Clothing & Spondylus Shells"; and a presentation by author Lynn McKee of her latest book involving Florida's indigenous people, "Spirit of the Turtle Woman." Conferences at area colleges and universities and exhibits at museums and galleries are among the archaeologically oriented programs that turn up in the listings.

In addition to the events listings, the site offers a few brief stories and news reports. According to AIAsouthFL, "this is the place to visit if you're

interested in anything that's old news." They mean, one assumes, news pertaining to ancient and pre-historic topics. Unfortunately, their offerings are also often "old" in the sense of outdated. An undated piece on the La Milpa discovery of a Mayan King's tomb refers us to "last Sunday's New York Times." But that was a Sunday in June of 1996. Another item about a "newly" examined tomb, a Pharaonic priest's in this case, is datelined Cairo, March 2. The year, however, was 1988. But I'm being picky. What's a few years in the realm of archaeology?

AIAsouthFL has links to other web sites of interest including many on Caribbean and Mesoamerican topics, but a surprising shortage of ones on Florida archaeology.

Their web address is:  
[www.954.com/AIAsouthFL](http://www.954.com/AIAsouthFL)

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## **CRAIGHEAD LAB**

**REPORT** by Ella May Ablahat

Our Civil Engineer, Walt Buschelman, is working over the Master Plan of Roberts Ranch in preparation for the eventual delcaration of that being declared a historical site. The Collier County Museum has been assigned the task of making that

Ranch a show place for visitors and SWFAS is working with them.

Jean Belknap's daughter, Toni, is a professional baker and created a great tray of delicacies for the SWFAS meeting held in July. All the while Jean works diligently on pottery from the various sites.

Jack Thompson manages to spend time with shells from the Addison Key site while attending to his responsibilities with SWFAS business. He's working with the new computer and we hope to begin entering data soon.

Art Lee is taking a recess from the paper work and report writing by analyzing shells.

Ella May is rearranging and updating files and sorting bones, mostly fish.

to when the next phase of work may commence at the Olde Marco Inn on the Key Marco Shell Midden (8CR48). A recent article in the Marco Island Eagle mentioned the need for volunteers, and five or six have called offering their assistance. The developer, Jim Jenkins, is waiting to remove the paving from the parking or east of the historic Inn building. He needs to locate (and have Florida Power & Light turn off) underground electrical utilities and remove various construction supplies stored in the parking lot area. Work should then commence.

A project of this sort is always "a hurry up and wait" proposition, without much happening, and then a mad scramble to recover the archaeological material and information!

Please feel free to call me and volunteer for *when* the project starts up. Updates will be published and/or announced at the meetings - or just call me. I will let you know if you leave a number. Call me at (941) 434-0624 and leave a message. Thanks!

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## **UPDATE ON THE IMPENDING KEY MARCO PROJECT**

by John Beriault

The Summer of 1999 is gradually wearing away and SWFAS and the Marco Island Historical Society are still awaiting word as

**JOHN G. BERIAULT, acting editor**

# NEWSLETTER