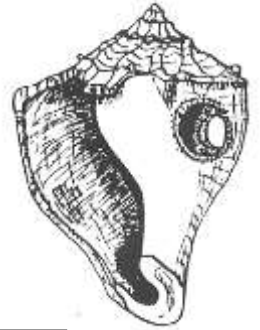


SWFAS

NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 2000



Olde Marco Inn Project Area in the 1930's: This early postcard shows the area along Collier Bay a hundred yards to the west of the area SWFAS volunteers have been working during the last two years. Pieces of the G&G Mercantile Building have been observed and photographed during monitoring.

**SUMMERTIME,
AND THE LIVING
IS (NOT
NECESSARILY)
EASY...**

It's Summertime again, and the "slow" season is upon us. Many of our hard-working members are off to summer residences, or traveling abroad – or just plain someplace else where it's not as hot and humid! This time of year doesn't mean there are not

"Things Happening" – in fact there many potential events looming – not all of them of pleasant potential consequences to SWFAS.

We still have to be concerned about the situation at the Collier County Museum and its ongoing struggle to be fully funded. We are still attempting, with increasing success, to bring interesting programs and speakers. We now have booking through October, but continue to need your help in arranging for more speakers.

Inside this Newsletter

- 2 Thanks From Dr. Marquardt:** A Note of thanks forwarded by Art Lee
- 3 Archaeology On The Web:** That Aucilla keeps flowing along. Read Linda Ballou...
- 5 What Happens If we're Homeless?** There's that possibility. Read...

We have just heard concerning news about the “open-ended” plans of the Bonita Springs Community Center. We hope there is no cause for concern, but ask in this issue for members to suggest and research other potential meeting places.

In all, we have some concerns. Like all “potential” threats, let’s keep monitoring them and take action if necessary.

Despite, the alarms, have a good Summer, just be forewarned that the Fall may involve concerted efforts to keep our group afloat!



FRANK HAMILTON CUSHING

I received some well-deserved criticism from one of our scholarly members about the June, 2000 cover photo of a scantily-clad Frank Hamilton Cushing. The intention was not to show disrespect for this great pioneer archaeologist, but rather his flexibility and experimental style

which was a hallmark at the Smithsonian Institution. Here is a more-normal representation of Mr. Cushing wearing most of his clothes.

THE DATE BOOK
August 9th - SWFAS Board of Directors Meeting,
Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs,
7:00 PM
August 16th - SWFAS General Meeting Bonita Spring Community Center, downtown Bonita Springs,
7:30 PM

About SWFAS
The directorate: President John G. Beriault, first vice president Betsy Perdichizzi, second vice president Don Taggart, membership secretary Charlie Strader, treasurer Charlie Strader, recording secretary Jo Ann Grey, directors Steve Tutko, Sue Long, Dottie Thompson, Jo Ann Grey, Charles Dugan, Jack Thompson, 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.

GOOD NEWS! THE CASEY PROPERTY HAS BEEN PURCHASED!

Art Lee has sent me an emailed message from Dr. Bill Marquardt that I would like to share verbatim with all the people receiving the Newsletter. I’m sure some of the people he is thanking are members of our Society that went out of their way to support the purchase of this property, whose fate, as of the last edition of the Newsletter, still hung in the balance. Here is his message:

From: "William H. Marquardt"
bilmarq@flmnh.ufl.edu>
Subject: Purchase of Casey property

The Lee County Board of County Commissioners voted yesterday to purchase the 8.6-acre parcel containing the Ruby Gill house and Pineland post office, part of the Pineland Site Complex. A compromise was reached that allowed \$129,000 to be spent from Conservation 2020 funds (said to be the value of the unimproved land), while \$107,000 came from the County Lands budget and \$153,000 was taken from reserves, making up

the \$389,000 that the County had offered. Through the generosity of the Stans Foundation, an additional \$11,000 will be paid to the owner to reach the asking price of \$400,000. If all goes well, the deal should be closed within 90 days.

I want to express my deep appreciation to all of you who wrote, called, faxed, e-mailed, and spoke to the Commissioners about this issue. I know that I do not have the addresses of all who helped, so I ask those receiving this message to please forward it to others on their mailing list who helped with this effort.

Bill Marquardt, Bill Keegan, Karen Walker, Darcie MacMahon, and Corbett Torrence were all on hand from the Florida Museum to support this purchase and let the Commissioners know that the Florida Museum and the University of Florida support the Randell Center fully. But the purchase would not have gone through without local support. I cannot express in words how much it means to all of us associated with the Randell Research Center to have had so many Lee County people standing beside us to support this purchase. Although we still have more to do to secure the Pineland property and raise the endowment fund that will support our research and education programs in perpetuity, the purchase of the Casey property by Lee County is an important, major step in the right direction.

Thank you all very much for your friendship and support.

Sincerely,

Bill Marquardt

William H. Marquardt
Curator in Archaeology
Florida Museum of Natural History
PO Box 117800, Gainesville, FL 32611
PHONE 352-392-7188
FAX 352-392-3698

Archaeology on the Web

By Linda Ballou

Its fieldwork concluded, the Aucilla River Prehistory Project (ARPP) sent out its final newsletter last year, to the dismay of many of us who had relished each annual edition. Sponsored by the Florida Museum of Natural History, ARPP is the archeological/paleological project exploring deposits in the Aucilla River of the Big Bend area of northwest Florida. Project personnel have found underwater evidence of early Floridians hunting mastodons 12,200 years ago. Such early dates challenge the conventional theory of human migration.

The good news is that the last four issues of the newsletter are archived online, each one loaded with articles ranging from field reports to humorous

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anecdotes, scientific analysis to philosophical musings. But that's not all. The ARPP website www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/arpp.htm also includes a virtual museum exhibit, *When the First Floridians Met the Last Mastodons*. Designed as a slide show, the exhibit uses a series of photographs, maps and artists' renderings to give viewers a sense of the natural history of the Aucilla River during Pleistocene times. It also features some of the highlights of the project's examinations of human-animal interaction during that epoch in Florida.

The exhibit explains how sinkholes, formed when sea and river levels were lower 20,000 years ago, became watering holes where animals, and later their human predators, congregated. There are photographs of several ivory spear shafts and beautifully chipped chert spear points found in the Aucilla by divers. An underwater photograph shows *in situ* the 1993 find of a 7½-foot mastodon tusk. The tusk had numerous cut marks where Paleoindian hunters used stone tools to remove it from the skull. Links can be followed to view more photographs of artifacts such as chert points, bone fish hooks, and an ivory shaft bearing a geometric design said to be the earliest artwork in North America. A section on Flora and Fauna of the Aucilla

Project shows a chert point imbedded in a bison skull.

The website also provides "Links in Archaeology," where viewers can connect to other archaeological projects in Florida, university programs in underwater archaeology, Paleoindian resources and more. Point your browser to www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/arpp.htm and dive right in.

Quote of the Month

Contributed by Linda Ballou

"Archaeology is the only branch of anthropology where we kill our informants in the process of studying them." (Kent V. Flannery, 1982 "The golden Marshalltown." *American Anthropologist* 84:275)

CRAIGHEAD LAB REPORT, July 2000

By Ella May Ablahat

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK - Betsy McCarthy is back for a while this summer and doing more scientific illustrating. She'll spend the remainder of the summer in Michigan, and, we hope, planning her work for the fall.

Just before the monthly meeting of SWFAS a much anticipated safari to Sanibel was undertaken by the Lab workers. The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum was (and is) an exciting place to be visited

by shell enthusiasts and there are plenty of those in SWFAS. Shells from as far away as Australia along with hundreds of beautiful examples of Florida specimens.

Art Lee and Jack Thompson did work measuring and planning for the hurricane protection for the Lab. Many papers, etc., are deposited in the Museum during a hurricane alert but many valuable items cannot be so protected. Therefore, the windows and glass door panels have to be covered and we are looking for help in the project. Do we see any hands raised? Saturday, July 29, is the day planned for this so if you care to help please call Jack Thompson at 597-2269.

DUGAN APPOINTED

Charles Dugan, Jr., a SWFAS member and Director, was appointed to the Collier County Historical and Archaeological Preservation Board at the July meeting. He has been a member of our organization for several years and has worked on digs at Marco Island and Pineland and other places.

He replaces Tom Francino, also a SWFAS and SWFAS Board member. Tom entered the race for a judge's seat in Collier County and resigned from the advisory board in accordance with the law.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shaw Waltz, a former instructor in Special Education, will be the speaker at the August 16th meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. The group will meet at the Bonita Springs Community Center located at the corner of Old Highway 41 and Reynolds Street at 7:30 P.M.

Her topic will be **ROCK ART: THROUGH THE AGES AND AROUND THE WORLD.**

For a year she and her husband, A.G. Waltz traveled around the world studying rock art drawn at different times and by different cultures. They will attempt to answer questions that rock art raises and how experts have answered them. Colored slides will be shown illustrating his lecture.

Avocational and professional archaeologists as well as those interested in history are welcome to attend. For further information call 941-597-2269

WHAT'LL WE DO IF THE HALL SHUTS DOWN?

I received the following email from Jack Thompson concerning our monthly meeting place, the Bonita Springs Community center. There is the very real possibility, due to certain Lee County procedural changes, that the availability of the Center for our monthly meetings may be denied. The SWFAS Board is asking the various members for suggestions as to where we might consider meeting as a "contingency plan" in the event this possible "eviction" might ultimately happen. Where are some of the places the other organizations you belong to meet? Could you inquire as to the cost and availability of your meeting place on the third Wednesday of each month? Find out cost, capacity, rules and regs. We would need to know location, which needs to be reasonably centralized (i.e. North Naples, Bonita Springs, Estero) to allow for as near equal driving time for all concerned. Thanks! This may be crucial to our continued survival. Below I print Jack's message:

John,
After several calls Dottie got in touch with Hank Hochstetler who heads up the Main Street organization .The County had turned over operation of the Community Center to them. The newspaper has reported that the New City of Bonita Springs will take the Hall over. He hopes to know by October 1 the future status and our use of the hall.

The police department is to move. He doesn't know when, they hold the key to the hall and I don't want to show up for a meeting and not be able to get the key. He says he will keep us informed by letter.

The question is what we will do if we lose the hall. The Collier Count Museum has asked us to consider meeting there. It would be a burden on our Pine Island bunch. Can you put something in the newsletter asking our members to think about an alternative in case we need it. Availability on the third Wednesday, cost and number of seats are all important.

HURRICANE PARTY SET FOR SATURDAY, JULY 29th AT THE CRAIGHEAD LAB

Art Lee our Director of the Craighead Laboratory at the Collier County Museum has asked the help of the SWFAS membership to construct storm panels to fit over the windows at the Craighead Laboratory. This is just in case we get another of those "tropical visitors" in the late Summer or early Fall that could threaten all our hard-earned

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possessions, records, computer, samples, etc. that we have in the Laboratory potentially waiting for an accident to happen.

We plan to meet at 9:30 AM, Saturday, July 29th at the Craighead Laboratory building at the Collier County Museum to take measurements, consider the problem, obtain supplies and begin construction on the removable panels. Hope you can join us and help make these highly necessary storm preparations a reality!