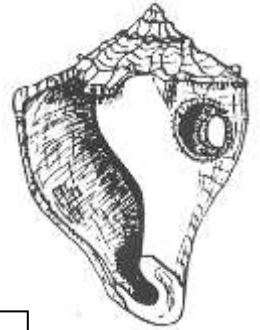


SWFAS

NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

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NOVEMBER, 2000



Gordon Pass—Entrance to Naples Bay, Naples, Florida.

Gordon's Pass around the turn of the century: This postcard taken c. 1908, shows the mouth of Gordon's Pass near Naples. On the north side of the Pass was a large shell midden, destroyed in the 1940's, which became the type-site (namesake) bestowed by John M. Goggin on a unique incised ceramic design series called Gordons Pass Incised in a 1936 article in the *New Mexico Anthropologist*.

LATEST UPDATE ON A POSSIBLE NEW LOCATION TO MEET...

As of the time of this Newsletter going to press, we still have not firmed up our new meeting place, other than narrow the choice down to TWO likely locations, both centrally located to allow the members from all over the Southwest Florida region an "equal opportunity" to convene easily for monthly meetings. Please continue to watch the monthly Newsletter for the "Final Word" as to where we are going. We should know something to pass on to all of you as one

English-challenged character actor once said in a classic movie, "in a very-soon moment".

Inside this Newsletter

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- 2 Captain Ellis had a Place!**: If you think you know where it might be, Phyllis Kolianos would like to hear from you...
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THE DATE BOOK

**November 8th - SWFAS
Board of Directors Meeting,**
Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs,
7:00 PM

**November 15th - SWFAS
General Meeting** Bonita
Spring Community Center,
downtown Bonita Springs, 7:30
PM

**December 17th – SWFAS
Picnic** 10:30 AM, Collier
County Museum, bring a dish
to share

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.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS...

I have just received a request to run a plea in the Newsletter, one that I am more than happy to grant, from David Southall, volunteer coordinator with the Collier County Museum. He needs volunteers to help with directing a very large number of school children during an event planned for November 3rd.

Many of you are aware that the Museum has been a staunch ally of ours over the years. Our Craighead Laboratory is situated there, and we have been recently granted use of the beautifully landscaped grounds at the Museum for a December 17th picnic.

It would be very appropriate if members of SWFAS could help in this event to show our appreciation for the support we receive from the Museum. Please read David Southall's appeal:

On Friday, November 3rd, the Collier County Museum is expecting nearly 3000 school children to attend Old Florida Festival! The children are mostly 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades, with a large percentage coming from Immokalee. They will begin arriving at around 9:30 am and leave about 2:00 pm. will be visiting each of the reenactor camps as well as eating lunch here on the grounds. We need volunteers to help with all aspects

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of this event. Mostly we need "guides"; individuals who can take charge of a group and keep them together, going in the right direction and on schedule. We will have a briefing for new volunteers at 8:30 am in the Museum lecture hall just prior to the children arriving. If you would be willing to help with this exciting event, please call the Collier County Museum at 774-8476 and leave your name and telephone number.

Thanks,
David Southall
Collier County Museum

Frank Hamilton Cushing "New" Research

By Phyllis Kolianos

Two years of research on the Florida Diaries of Frank Hamilton Cushing continues to disclose significant other resources. This annotated research in a master's thesis will soon be forthcoming. It will include not only the diaries, but other relevant material. Much of this material written by Cushing over 100 years ago revealed his incredible abilities of keen observation, intuition, and theories as well as his frustrations and successes.

The Pepper-Hearst Expedition of 1896, and Cushing's initial 1895 exploratory trip to Central and Southwest Florida remain important to Florida archaeology for many reasons. One is his identification of many sites that have never been documented. This provokes two trains of thought. Is it better protection to keep undocumented sites unknown? The new guide, *Best Management Practices*, from the Bureau of Archaeological Research, outlines the steps to a "well-managed" site on private land. The first step involves documentation. A site recorded and documented is more likely to be protected, stabilized, and appreciated.

One of many sites Cushing mentioned in his travels of 1895-1896 was easily confirmed by myself. Just a half-mile from my house in Tarpon Springs, Cushing saw "abundant chips." Two houses were under construction along this dune ridge site exposing an abundance of lithic scatter. Another visit to the site after a heavy rain produced a perfect Newnan point on the surface. This extensive site is under further investigation for site boundaries, and will be recorded and documented with Cushing as the initial investigator.

Some of the sites Cushing mentioned in Southwest Florida remain difficult to interpret because place names have changed throughout the years. So I am asking the valuable

knowledge of the SWFAS membership for help in identifying the probable local of Cushing's observations. The following text contains Cushing's observation and description of the topography and concerns sites on Sanibel Island.

On Cushing's initial trip to Florida he twice visited Sanibel Island. The following is a description of a place he called Ellis's Bay. Cushing sailed some three miles across San Carlos from St. James City "to the exceedingly narrow channel of this lesser bay." Upon arriving on Sanibel, Cushing walked across the island to the magnificent beach, and bathed in the gulf side waters. He then recrossed the island observing the vegetation and "alternate flat ridges and depressions" running lengthwise and parallel to the coast.

Approaching closer to Ellis's picturesque thatched shacks, Cushing saw one ridge much different from the others. This ridge crossed diagonally the road Cushing traveled and cut through by the road exposed its artificial construction. The ridge's lower level was of large conch shells, almost as tightly arranged as the conch wall facing that he had observed at Demorey's Key. Next transversed a level of smaller shells placed in regular course, then smaller shells above these. This ridge some two to three feet deep was built more as a

causeway that led to a series of pond shaped marshes. These marshes surrounded on the land side the artificially built black dirt hammock of Ellis's Place, where stood his palmetto "hamlet."

Captain Samuel Ellis was described as a well-educated man known throughout the region. He told Cushing about great mounds, mostly constructed of shell, throughout the mangrove swamps on the northern end of the Bay on which he lived. Ellis's garden spot was a "rounded elevation" some 130 feet long and wide of mixed black dirt and shell, "exceedingly fertile." It had once been covered with huge oaks, button-wood trees, and dense vegetation. The southern central end of this mound Ellis tried to remove a large stump and uncovered human remains. Cushing described in detail his confirmation of this burial site and his finds. This was not a typical burial site, but a "burial heap" in a pit once dug in the middle of what had once been a shallow pond. Fire had been used in the "funereal ceremonial." Cushing considered this a more ancient burial method with only a few shell artifacts with the internments.

Cushing revisited Ellis's Place once more in 1895 before heading home. He wished to

further investigate sites on the shores northward of Ellis Bay. Some of these were visible from the coastline. Cushing states that beside the one main channel leading into the Bay, there was a smaller canal cut through by Ellis as a shortcut to St. James City. He entered from the northwestern portion of San Carlos Bay through this small canal, and "skirted" around the mangroves that formed into swamps that lined the southern inner portion of Sanibel up to a "slight point." The waters on this side of Carlos Bay were very shoal. Cushing waded to shore. Low mounds not over four feet extended back into the swampy areas. Cushing observed that this was an abandoned settlement not well advanced, but evidenced by the broken pot sherds and shell implements, on the artificial shell ridges. These could only have been inhabited by pile supported structures.

Cushing had a trench excavated on a more advanced Key some 3/4 mile from this site, that showed heights of eight or nine feet. Here he discovered postholes in the marl-like crust, composed of ash, shell, marl, and bits of pottery that covered a layer in the stratigraphy of the mound. This perhaps is the first use of the term, postholes, in Florida archaeology.

Where are Ellis Bay and Ellis Place on Sanibel Island? Who is Captain Samuel Ellis? Are any of the sites Cushing described recorded? I do

appreciate any and all suggestions, information, and resources from the SWFAS members. My e-mail address is koliano@attglobal.net.

Quote of the Month

Contributed by Linda Ballou

"I've never seen a fossil man, I never hope to see one, But I can tell you anyhow, I'd rather see than be one."

-E.A. Hooton, *Apes, Men, and Morons*, 1937, describing the attitude of many physical anthropologists towards alleged fossil Americans after a rash of spurious claims for the antiquity of human skulls became an embarrassment to the profession.

SWFAS PICNIC TO BE HELD DECEMBER 17th AT COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

The time of year is approaching for our annual picnic. We must thank our kind hosts, the Collier County Museum and Ron Jamro, its director for allowing us the use of the grounds again this year. The picnic will officially start at 10:30 AM. All SWFAS members are urged to bring a dish to share. The cook-out portion of the festivities have been eliminated

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this year to give Bud House, our valiant chef, a much-needed breather from his usual yearly exertions so it is critical food be brought to share. There will be a sign-up sheet provided at the November 15th General Meeting for those people who are bringing food to indicate what they are bringing to avoid too much duplication in any direction.

As you know this is always a good opportunity to mingle and just visit in a comfortable beautiful place and catch up with how your various friends have been and what they have been doing all Summer, etc. Please help out by coming and bringing something good to eat with you.

Darcie MacMahon TO SPEAK IN NOVEMBER

Darcie MacMahon is the Coordinator of Museum Operations at the Florida Museum of Natural History. She has a Master's degree from George Washington University and the Smithsonian in Anthropology and Museum Studies, and she has over twenty years' experience in archaeology, collections curation, and museum exhibit development. She is currently heading up efforts to create exhibits for the Museum's new Education and Exhibition Center.

She will be speaking about the planning and construction of a new 6000-square-foot permanent exhibit about South Florida People and Environments. This is the first time in the 83-year history of our state's natural history museum that it has done a permanent exhibit about South Florida. The \$2.2-million exhibit revolves around the central idea that the estuaries have supported people for thousands of years, and is largely based on the Museum's many years of archaeological research in the Fort Myers area.