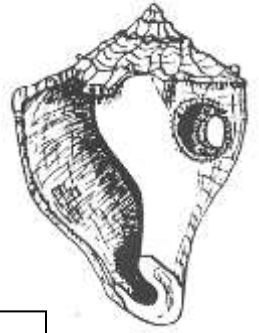


SWFAS

# NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 2001



**Seminole Indian Family c. 1910-1920:** This postcard shows a grouping of Seminole Indians, presumably a family (as stated on the postcard). These old postcards are useful to document styles of dress. They can often indicate the identity of the people being depicted or the place they were photographed.

## IT'S OFFICIAL: FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY WILL BE OUR NEW MEETING PLACE!

It's now official: as of January, 2001, we will be holding our general meetings at our new regional university, FGCU! We believe this is an excellent match. Not only is the university centrally

(and conveniently) located off Exits 19 and 20 of I-75, but our two organizations have the same goals of disseminating knowledge and fostering the preservation of those things important to us all in Southwest Florida. There are many exciting projects and areas of cooperation in which we hope to engage our mutual efforts.

We should be meeting in Building AB3, Room 116 (see **CORRECTED** map of campus, page three, this issue). We have had the last general meeting scheduled at the Bonita Springs Community center, now our group will move to FGCU. See you there!

### *Inside this Newsletter*

- 1 We are Moving! Florida Gulf Coast University will be the new site of our General Meetings**
- 2 Where ARE the Berries?! Read Linda Ballou...**
- 2 State Bureau Publishes New Brochure on Archaeological Protection**
- 3 Weysore's Key – Where that be? Read Phyllis Kolianos...**
- 4 MISTAKE LEADS TO NEED FOR CORRECTED MAP**

## THE DATE BOOK

**January 10<sup>th</sup> SWFAS Board Meeting** – Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 7:00 PM

**January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001 General Meeting and Election of Officers – HELD AT FGCU MAIN CAMPUS – TAKE EXITS 19 OR 20 EAST OF I-75 (SEE MAP THIS ISSUE)**

### 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](mailto:JGBeriault@aol.com).

## DUES ARE DUE!

Friends, it's that time of year again to remind you that SWFAS membership dues are due and payable January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001. We're not like the phone or power

company – can't remind you by turning off the utility. We hope you will see this notice and sit right down and send us a check payable to the **Southwest Florida Archaeological Society**, P.O. Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101-9965. As a group we've had a positive impact in informing people, preserving our historic and prehistoric resources, and just plain enjoying each other's company and having a good time! Please help us by staying with us and sending in your dues. Thanks!

## Quote of the Month

*Contributed by Linda Ballou*

“Look, we're still basically hunter-gatherers. My theory is that now we're shopper-gatherers. I think this is why people shop so much. What we want to be doing is digging up roots and berries and scavenging the occasional carcass. This is what we're made to do. But, like a zoo animal that keeps pacing in a tiny area because it wants to be patrolling a giant territory, we go to the shopping mall because we don't remember where the hell the berries are.” ( Author Sy Montgomery interviewed in *Escape* magazine, July 2000)

## NEW PUBLICATION FOCUSES ON PROTECTION

By Linda Ballou

The state Bureau of Archaeological Research has issued a new publication designed to promote stewardship of archaeological sites in Florida. The 34-page booklet is entitled *Best Management Practices: An Owner's Guide to Protecting Archaeological Sites*. Aimed particularly at private landowners, the guide offers non-technical explanations of what archaeological sites are like, why they are valuable, how they are threatened, and how they can be protected.

A colorful artist's rendition of a Timucuan village graces the cover of this excellent publication. In addition to covering management practices and programs, the guide offers additional resources such as books, articles and internet sites. The Florida Master Site File is explained and sample site forms are included which can be photocopied for use.

## SWFAS MEETING

To obtain a free copy of *Best Management Practices* send your request to Bureau of Archaeological Research, R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 or e-mail [sitewatch@mail.dos.state.fl.us](mailto:sitewatch@mail.dos.state.fl.us).

Dr. Robin Brown, a board-certified ear, nose and throat specialist in Ft. Myers and author of "Florida's First People and "Florida Fossils", will be the speaker at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society at 7:30. P.M. The title of his talk will be: "The Incredible Preservative Properties of Florida Peat."

The Society has a new meeting place at Florida Gulf Coast University which is located on the east side of Ben Hill Griffin Parkway between Alico and Cockscrew Roads. The college can be approached from Exit 19 and 20 on I-75. The meeting room, 116, is in Academic Building Three.

Dr. Brown will describe the artifacts preserved in Archaeological sites for thousands of years. These include masks, cord, rope, woven cloth and human brains.

Avocational and professional archaeologists and the public are welcome to attend. For further information, call 941-597-2269 Dorothy Thompson 576 Retreat Drive, Apt. 202 Naples, FL 34110

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**DR. ROBIN  
BROWN TO  
SPEAK AT  
JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

## WEYSORE'S KEY

By Phyllis Kolianos

Thanks to the SWFAS members who responded to my request concerning Frank H. Cushing's explorations of 1895-1896, and especially Betty Anholt who could pinpoint the location of Ellis's Place on Sanibel Island. With such great success, I am encouraged to write about another site. The following site visited by Cushing was not mentioned in his American Philosophical Society proceedings report, *Explorations of Ancient Key-Dweller Remains on the Gulf Coast of Florida*.

On the return voyage from Key Marco, Cushing realized this was his last chance to survey the islands and keys, and substantiate his theory of artificial shell construction and mound building. Sayford, Brady, and Clarke, members of the expedition, had already left the group, and the others were worn out from the strenuous weeks of work. Cushing still determined to prove with evidence the significance of his concepts continued his explorations.

Cushing visited one Key briefly on this return voyage. How he derived the place name remains unknown. This Key must be situated in Pine Island Sound. On Friday, April 24, Cushing sailed from St. James City towards Demorey's Key,

stopping on the way at Weysore's Key. Cushing briefly described Weysore's Key in his diary as a "gigantic settlement with seven very high nearly parallel mounds & many lesser & with superb canal and water court or long bent lagune in middle." Sketch maps were made as well as some excavations in the muck.

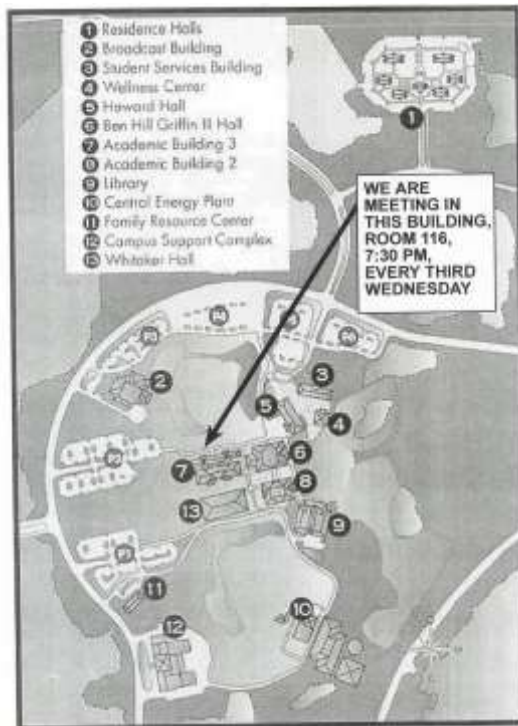
Wells M. Sawyer gives more information and detail on what "was known as Weysore's Key" in his unpublished draft (P. K. Yonge Library). According to Sawyer, the Key appeared to be untouched by cultivation and left in much the same state as when the aboriginals vanished. Seven ridges 12 to 15 feet high surrounded a great central lagoon. To the North of this lagoon enclosed and protected by low ridges was a very steep shell structure with a narrow top divided into two well-defined ridges. The tallest of these ridges was 18 to 20 feet high by approximately 30 feet in length. The steep side of the mound faced the watercourt and the other side led northward "as a broad level roadway into the swamp."

Sawyer noted the excavations proved Indian occupation and no Spanish or historic found. The location of Sawyer's sketch map is unknown. Sawyer impressed by what he saw wrote, "A decided contribution to American archaeology is made in the mere announcement of this Key." Both

Sawyer and Cushing regretted the brief time spent there.

So where is Weysore's Key? Was this Key mentioned on some old coastal chart? Some archaeologists have suggested perhaps Galt Island. This location seems feasible, but does the description fit? I do appreciate any information.

Your acting editor would like to apologize for erroneous information given in the last issue as to the room location of our new meeting site. We are meeting in **ROOM 116, ACADEMIC Building 3** (labeled #7. On the map, page 3). Please take note! Thanks, and see you there, if I can follow my own directions!



**HUMAN ERROR  
AND SHEER  
STUPIDITY  
LEADS TO MAP  
DIRECTIONS  
FOR WRONG  
BUILDING!!!!**