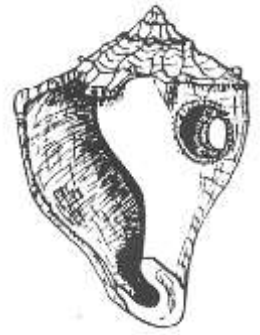


SWFAS

# NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 2001



### VERY BIG STONES:

Inca architectural detail is fascinating. The size of the stones of Sacsayhuaman are phenomenal, not to mention the fitted joints ...

## SUSAN STANS AND ALICE SNOW GIVE SWFAS A UNIQUE PRESENTATION AT SEPTEMBER MEETING!

Sometimes (at least it seems so to me), archaeological/ anthropological groups focus on peoples and things of the distant past, and, I think (sometimes), in doing so, we forget

these people were once living with concerns much like our own. It's not that we dehumanize, but like a bunch of "Sherlock Holmeses" we are focused on "evidences", not on the people that produced them – maybe that's why our discipline is so often termed "inexact".

We got to meet and listen to two of the "real" people in our field at the September meeting and maybe glimpse how our work in anthropology always ought to be done. Dr. Susan Stans has studied and is studying traditional medicine with the help and friendship of Alice Snow, a traditional Seminole plant gatherer. SWFAS was privileged to not only see the plants and hear about techniques of gathering but we got to see (and thus get insight into) a good and rewarding partnership and collaboration by two people on opposite sides of a cultural divide.

It's always a hope, particularly in these troubled times, when different ethnic/religious groups can come to do mayhem half a world away to people they don't understand but hate or fear, that we can see more of this trust and understanding that is productive, not only in terms of a knowledge about practices but in terms of preservation, toleration, and true appreciation.

## BREAKING NEWS

*Rebecca Harris, director of the Fort Myers Beach Cultural Museum and Environmental Learning Center (the Mound House) has very kindly agreed to host the SWFAS December Picnic at her facility. Plans are to meet here at 10:00 AM, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Details are still being worked out as to parking arrangements, transport to the facility and other details. Please watch for additional announcements in the November issue. A map and directions to the Mound House are posted in the back of this issue.*

### Inside this Newsletter

- 1 We have Moved! Florida Gulf Coast University is the new site of our General Meetings**
- 2 You can't get there from here – Part Three!**

Read Dr. Robert  
Gore...

**5 SWFAS GARAGE  
SALE DATE SET** See  
article this issue...

Box 9074, Naples, FL 34101-9074 or  
Email to: [JGBerault@aol.com](mailto:JGBerault@aol.com).

which differ in details  
inconsequential for our  
consideration. These gyres are  
created after the parental  
Caribbean Current sluices  
northward through the Yucatan  
Channel.

## PAGE TWO

The Caribbean Current  
itself ceases to exist as a named  
oceanographic entity when it  
enters the Gulf of Mexico because  
the water is forced into two  
directions. The westward branch  
swings past the Yucatan peninsula  
and swirls around the greater Gulf  
Basin, forming the series of broad  
loops, before completing its circle  
and exiting at the narrow  
constriction formed by the  
continental shelves at the tip of  
the Florida peninsula and the  
island of Cuba. Here it joins the  
second (eastward) branch of the  
now nomenclaturally defunct  
Caribbean Current pouring  
through the Yucatan Channel.  
Now rejoined into one current  
these waters, owing to the general  
force of their egress, rush  
eastward through the Straits of  
Florida. Uniting north of Cuba  
they form the Florida Current  
which then roars up the Bahama  
Channel on its way toward the  
Carolina Outer Banks.

The Florida Current  
remains nomenclaturally intact  
until it exits the Bahama Channel.  
Then, about the latitude of Cape  
Hatteras, it joins with the  
Antillean Current sweeping down  
the eastern side of the Bahama

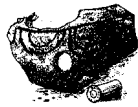
## THE DATE BOOK

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

**October 17th, 2001 General  
Meeting – HELD AT FGCU  
MAIN CAMPUS – TAKE EXITS  
19 OR 20 EAST OF I-75**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001 SWFAS  
December Picnic held at The  
Mound House, Fort Myers  
Beach 10:00 AM**

(see map this Issue)



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

YOU CAN'T GET THERE  
FROM HERE (CAN YOU?).  
3. Journeying to Cuba.

Let's close our  
speculations of Pleistocene-  
Holocene sea travel by  
looking briefly at the temporal  
and regional aspects of sea  
surface currents as potential  
mechanisms of transport.  
Temporally, and again  
speaking quite generally, two  
current regimes have  
developed within the Gulf of  
Mexico proper--one in the  
summer and a second in the  
winter. Both regimes produce  
a similar series of large gyres

## About SWFAS

**The directorate:** President Betsy Perdichizzi,  
first 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 Berault,  
Charlie Strader and Dr Michael McDonald.

The committees: Field: Berault, 434-0624;  
Hospitality: position open; Membership: Charlie  
Strader; Publicity: Dottie Thompson, 597-2269;  
Sales: position open; 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. Berault, acting editor, P.O.

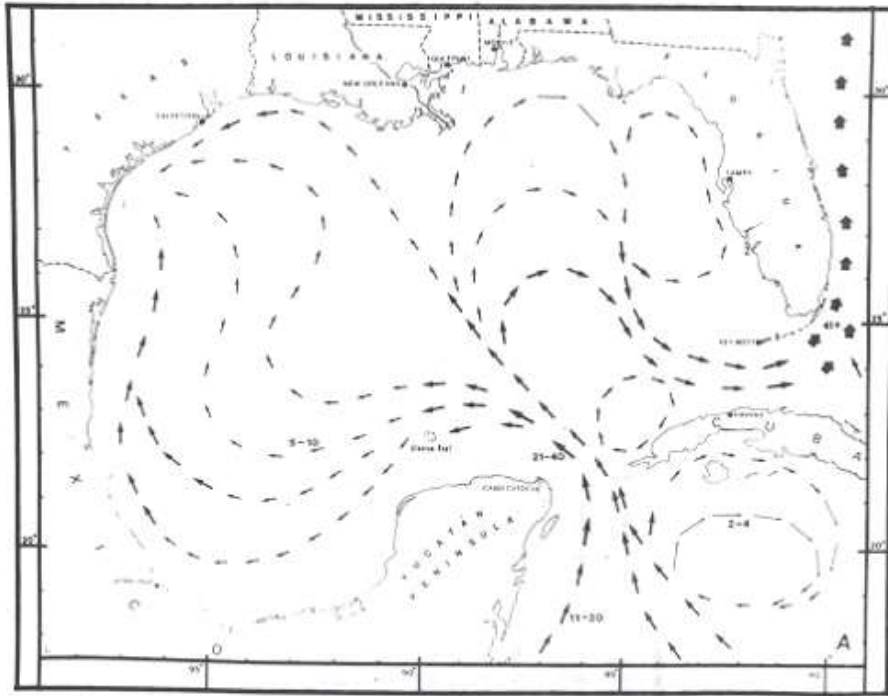


Figure 5: Schematic diagram of surface currents in the Gulf of Mexico during the summer. Numbers indicate average number of miles traveled per 24 hour period. See Gore, 1992, fig. 9A, p. 69, for complete citation.

Islands and becomes the Gulf Stream. It is a curiosity of scientific history that modern oceanographers have preferred to nomenclaturally or oceanographically define the Gulf Stream only some 500 nautical miles after it has departed the Gulf of Mexico. However, in earlier times, the Bahama Channel was also known as the Gulph of Florida which probably accounts for the presently yclept Florida Current being known earlier as the "Gulph Stream."

A very generalized plot of the direction and surface speeds of the surface currents in today's Gulf of Mexico resembles a map for an oceanic bus route. They therefore allow a calculable time of arrival for numerous points around either

the Gulf of Mexico, the Floridan peninsula, or the Island of Cuba. Hypothetically, if a savvy aboriginal canoe-master knew the general direction or speed of the Loop Current in the Gulf of Mexico at any given season, he could plot a general course that would take him via drifting or rowing pretty much where he wanted to go. For example, using present-day distances between landforms, the travel time from western Cuba (starting with the gyre off Cabo San Antonio) to anywhere in the Florida Keys, or off the Yucatan Peninsula, might take our Guanahatabeyan master little more than two days at a mean surface speed of 40 miles/day.

However, between 20,000-14,000 years earlier the duration might easily have been one day or less. This was due in part to the reduced distances arising as a consequence of conshelf exposure, in turn caused by glacial tie-up of seawater, and

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a postulated increase in the speeds of surface currents owing to further bathymetric constriction by the newly-exposed land masses. Even though canoes may not yet have been invented, any Late Pleistocene adventurers or castaways clinging to a floating log would still be at sea perhaps some 48 hours before sighting land. Then the only problem would be how to get on it. Today, Cuban and Haitian refugees use inner tubes to accomplish the same goal--in about the same amount of time, but now traveling over greater distances, of course. Yet they still wash ashore between Miami and Fort Lauderdale, don't they?

All of these "flumenistics" have been in place for a long, long time. The currents that presently exist within the Gulf of Mexico, and which may have aided aboriginal mariners, trace their development to an ancient Gulf Stream which in turn was once part of a vast globe-encircling seaway called the Tethys Sea. However, the Gulf Stream System did not become the powerful current regime we know today until the Central American landmass was raised. During the

Late Cretaceous and Early Palaeocene, some 65-55 million years BP, the palaeo-Gulf Stream loop exited the Gulf of Mexico not around the tip of Florida but through the Suwanee Straits instead. The Suwanee Straits (or Gulf Trough) was a broad trough that once extended along the approximate border of present-day Georgia and Florida.

At about this same time, through a combination of an oceanographic event superimposed on a tectonic event, the groundwork for a palaeo-Florida Current had also been laid. This happened when the proto-Cuban landmass, located on the Caribbean tectonic plate, and the Floridan plateau, located on the North American plate, slid past each other in a rifting episode sometime during the Late Cretaceous-Middle Eocene periods, 75-55 million years ago. The declivity that was to become the Florida Straits was created and the palaeo-Florida Current began to spill out of the Gulf of Mexico and became active along the northern margin of the Cuban foreland.

The Florida Straits were at first a shallow-water platform, and more of a barrier bank than a trough. But further tectonic subsidence during the Eocene, some 50-40 million years ago, coupled with an increasingly large-scale mass transport of water from the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, severed the shallow limestone platform that had connected Cuba, Florida, and the Bahamas, gouging it into the several thousand feet

deep trough we see today. Had anybody been around 50 million years ago they could have walked from Florida to Cuba.

Meanwhile, the infilling of the Suwanee Straits, caused by sediments washing down from the Appalachian Mountains, gradually closed this seaway and at the same time forced the previous Gulf flow southward along the peninsular west coast. This not only created the modern Gulf Loop Current, but redirected the

final closure of the Panamanian isthmus in the Pliocene, it joined forces with the Florida Current to become today's massive and far-reaching Gulf Stream System.

Finally, a heretofore-unconsidered factor. In our speculations on ancient seafarers is the survivability and maintenance of an

**PAGE FOUR**  
applicable history of their cultural traditions. In short, what did they use instead of charts? For people like the Guanahatabey, who lacked a written language, the accurately reproduced and

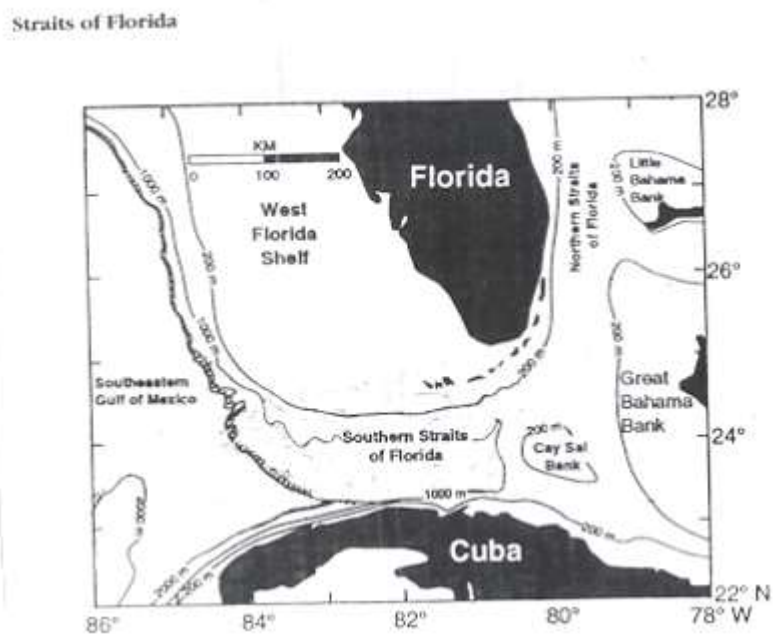


Figure 6: Schematic diagram of the southeastern Gulf of Mexico, West Florida Continental Shelf, western Bahama Banks, Straits of Florida, and Cuba. Bathymetric contours in meters (1 meter = 0.5 fathoms). The 200 m isobath is the standard depth for the seaward margin of the continental shelf. Redrawn from Denny, W. M. et al., 1994, figs. 1A, B p. 462.

palaeo- Gulf Stream to its new outlet around the Floridan peninsular tip where, after the

reproducible recording of geographic or-oceanographic data would seem to pose a major

problem because it would all have to be done verbally. And, although the Guanahatabey might have employed astronomical indicators (so-called fixed stars, for example), these celestial roadsigns are not only seasonally eventful but require a fairly accurate measurement of time to predict their first appearance, and subsequent risings and settings.

On the oceanographic front, without a fixed reference point to determine their direction and set, even simple observations of sea currents would be hellishly difficult--try it the next time you are eight miles off Naples--and no cheating by using a compass! In our speculative examples we may also wonder just how far forward in time could observations such as sealevel changes (for example) be accurately passed on (as legends, "dream-time" stories, and the like). The corollary is: how far back in time would they be accurately remembered? And how could they ever be associated with glacial events occurring thousands of miles away? The level of sophistication required even today is daunting.

Pragmatically speaking, when sea routes, currents, winds, and other oceanic factors are superimposed on a proposed travel route, the very complexity of these factors would appear to argue against both accurate memory and reliability. To give a simple example, the average distance to horizon on the open sea from a boat on its calm surface (i.e.

without waves, or climbing a mast) is about seven or eight miles. Which is to say that once a Guanahatabeyan canoeist exceeded this distance from his departure point (= 0, or first reference), and given no other islands within that same range and within 360 visual degrees from his canoe (= either X, or Y, second reference), the only thing he would see would be the great blue emptiness of ocean and sky--Poet Laureate John Masefield's "lonely sea and the sky." In effect our offshore sojourner would be a partially defined vector looking for a direction to go--and totally at the mercy of the sea gods.

But ancient people continually surprise us, and the technological facts and observations that wound up being saved for future Guanahatabeyan mariners (if any, and if applied strictly at the local coastal level) may not have been that difficult to make or remember. The Polynesians in the Tuamoto Archipelago, for example, use similar oceanographic data, amassed over the centuries, and passed on to, and held religiously by, men designated as "navigators." In their case wave trains and directions, as well as surface currents, are employed and coupled with indicator stars over certain islands. These combined data allow the navigators to plot

courses across the open Pacific Ocean toward islands that lie far out of sight over the horizon, and in water 1,500-3,000 fathoms deep. The sophistication and ingenuity involved is truly remarkable. So, when one considers that the total area of the Gulf of Mexico, although encompassing some 600,000 square miles, encloses a nearly land-locked region comprising slightly less than 27% of the

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total oceanic areal extent of the Tuamoto Archipelago, our Guanahatabeyan seafarers traveling to Cuba or elsewhere may not have had much problem at all. They might almost be considered suburbanites traveling around their neighborhood.

We opened this series of articles with a quote from Anthropologist Irving Rouse, who has studied extensively the entry of humans into the West Indies, and advanced three hypotheses in 1970: 1) entry from coastal Venezuela; 2) other parts of the Caribbean; and 3) mainland America. It is fitting to close with another of his quotes:

"Man, like other animals, may not have originally entered the Antilles in an orderly manner and from only one direction, but he may have been accidentally carried out to the Islands from several different directions."

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**SWFAS GARAGE SALE  
PLANNED FOR MID-  
JANUARY**

At the last SWFAS Board meeting, plans were formalized to hold the SWFAS Garage sale on a Saturday in mid January at the Bonita Springs Community Center (site of our old meeting-place). The following information is supplied by Charlie Strader, our treasurer and the man who has consented to help arrange the accommodations for the sale. He writes:

John

Here is some slightly revised info from previous rummage sale that you can use for the next newsletter. I guess for now the important thing is to ask membership to save and bring items. You may want to remind all that this is our main and really only fund raising function and it save us having to wash cars or dogs to raise funds. In addition to household items, we also hope to raise funds with snacks, so people could consider providing food items in lieu of other, to help contribute. They could even consider asking friends, neighbors, local business, etc, for donation goods.

Best,  
Charlie

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SWFAS Rummage Sale & Silent Auction  
Saturday, Mid January (date to be confirmed)  
Bonita Springs Community Center

ITEM DONORS: Please try to have your donated saleable goods at the Center (where we used to hold monthly meetings). All items should be marked ahead of time with your suggested sale price. If you cannot bring an item of value yourself because of some conflict, please contact other SWFAS members to find someone that can store and bring it for you. Remember that this is really our only fund-raising function and without donated items there will be no funds to raise!

Volunteer Request List: Volunteers are needed in several areas. For any areas that you are willing to volunteer for, please contact Sue Long at 262-8371 or Charlie Strader at 992-9660 ahead of time in order to coordinate times and activities.

1. General Volunteers: Needed in order to get things underway. We need people to:
    - A. Setup: Set up tables and display items.
    - B. Pricers: Mark prices on items. (We are expecting some donations to have items unmarked, so this is a necessary and time demanding requirement for the sale.)
    - C. Security: General order / overseeing. Also general assistance, as help is always needed for various little tasks.
- \* BRING: Pens (felt tips are

best) to mark items with. (Stick-on dots will be provided along with SWFAS Volunteer names tags). Also, start saving and bring plastic bags (such as from the grocery store). It's helpful to wear clothes with pockets to keep your pen and stickers in.

2. Advertising Volunteers:
  - A. Signs: To make temporary road signs for the day of the

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sale. Freestanding Sale Signs will need to be posted (and later removed) at multiple roadways around Bonita.

- B. Word of mouth: This is easy but important. Please mention to as many people (and even business's that could donate items or services) as possible that a nonprofit organization you are a member of is having a benefit sale and need BOTH items donated (which are tax deductible) and also buyers to come. Notices of the sale can be posted or announced at other organization's meetings, newsletters, businesses, neighborhoods, etc.

3. Refreshments & Hospitality: We are also hoping to raise funds with the sale of drinks and snacks. Please contact Jeanne Sanders at 446-4229 or Charlie Strader at 992-9660 ahead of time in order to coordinate.
  - A. We need donated snacks (cookies, cakes, pies, drinks, etc.) packaged in individual portions to sell.
  - B. We need volunteers to sell such (from the kitchen area of the meeting room) during the event.

5. Transport: We may need volunteers to transport donated items and furniture which have been donated and stored in south Bonita on the day sale. Trucks and vans are best but those with cars can also help. Call Charlie Strader at 992-6133 to volunteer to transport or to mark items and coordinate.

Notes: If you have expensive items such as antiques, art, etc., we can place them in the Silent Auction area which will allow for a greater opportunity of increased funding with better chances of the valuable items bringing higher prices.

**OTHER IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tom Francino has accepted Chairmanship of the March Archaeology Day Festival Committee in March. David Southall is Staff Advisor (rather than co chair).

Bud House has accepted Chairmanship of the Craighead Award Committee

**RANDELL RESEARCH CENTER PRESENTS PRECOLUMBIAN MUSIC AT SANIBEL CONCERT**

Thursday September 20, 2001  
For Immediate Release

At 7:00 PM on Sunday October 7,  
BIG Arts Schein Hall on Sanibel

Island will be the site of a remarkable concert of precolumbian music featuring noted artists Thomas Workman and Kat Epple. The concert is sponsored by the Randell Research Center, which conducts research and educational programs centering on an important Calusa Indian archaeological site, just across Pine Island Sound. The program will include performances by both musicians, as well as remarks regarding the historical and archaeological evidence for music among the Calusa and other Florida Indians offered by Dr. John Worth.

Thomas Workman, a multi-instrument performer and teacher, specializes in aboriginal music from around the world. His virtuosity runs the gamut from Brazilian bird calls and the Australian didjeridu to Southwest Floridas conch shells. He has a B.A. from Harvard and a Masters in Art Education from Massachusetts College of Art, as well as more than a decade of teaching experience with groups from across the country.

Kat Epple, is an Emmy Award-winning musician who has released more than a dozen albums, and given solo performances around the world. At her Fort Myers recording studio she also produces film and video

soundtracks for a range of public and commercial television programs. In her world travels, Kat has studied the people, natural environment, and music of many cultures, and her collection of flutes from around the world are featured in her original compositions.

The concert is sponsored by **PAGE SEVEN** the Randell Research Center at Pineland. The RRC was established in 1994, and is named in honor of Donald and Patricia Randell, who gave 56 acres of the Pineland Site Complex to the Florida Museum so that a center for Florida heritage and environmental education could be established.

Under the guidance of Director Dr. William Marquardt, and with tremendous community support, the RRC has grown to become an important educational resource in the areas of archaeology, history, and ecology of Southwest Florida. The Center has also recently hired Dr. John Worth as Coordinator for Research Programs and Services.

BIG Arts is located on Sanibel Island near City Hall on Dunlop Road. Tickets for the concert are \$15.00 per person for open seating. Tickets may be purchased by cash or check, and are available at the door or by reservation. The doors will open at 6:30 PM. For reservations or additional concert information, please call the Randell Research

Center office at 941-283-2062.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The October meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2001. The group will meet at Florida Gulf Coast University in Building, Academic 3, Room 110 at 7:30 P.M.

Amber Wynn, a student at the University, will present "Discovery at Tarbat". She spent two months this summer in Scotland sponsored by the Meftah Scholarship Foundation.

Amber worked on a site believed to be a Pictish monastic settlement dating from the sixth to the eighth century. In addition, she has worked at the Pineland site on Pine Island. Avocational and professional archaeologists as well as those interested in history are welcome to attend. For further information call 941-597-2269.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE FORT MYERS BEACH CULTURAL MUSEUM AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER (THE MOUND HOUSE)**

The Mound House is the oldest house on Estero Island and is located on a prehistoric Indian shell

mound directly facing Estero Bay. We look forward to your visit!

**From the South**  
I-75 Exit 18 West on Bonita Beach Road. Follow road for 12 miles to Estero Island (Town of Fort Myers Beach). Once on Estero Island, the road becomes Estero Blvd., continue north approximately 4.5 miles. At Beach Access 22 you will be at Connecticut Street, turn right and proceed to the end of the street. The entrance is the last driveway on the left.

**From the North**  
I-75 Exit 21 west on Daniels Parkway. Follow Daniels/Cypress Lake until it ends at McGregor (the name changes to Cypress Lake at US 41). Turn left on McGregor and continue until road becomes San Carlos. Continue on San Carlos over the Matanzas Sky Bridge merging left onto Estero Blvd. Travel south along Estero Blvd. approximately 2.5 miles

to Connecticut (Beach Access 22). Turn left on Connecticut Street and proceed to the end of the street. The entrance is the last driveway on the left.

