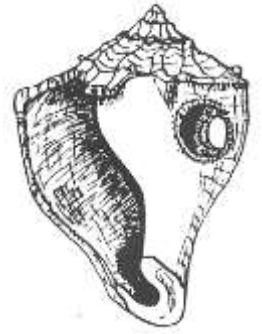


SWFAS

# NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR VOLUME 18, NUMBER 10 OCTOBER, 2002



This Old House... Photograph taken c. 1970 of one of a hundred old structures that are no longer around. This was the old Whidden Dairy, used in the opening scene of the movie *Shark River*. Archaeology now extends more and more into the recent historic period, and documenting these structures is important too.

## Mike Owen Talks About the Fakahatchee Strand

SWFAS has heard and seen an excellent and detailed presentation by State park service biologist Mike Owen on the remote and mysterious Fakahatchee Strand, an amazing swamp forest east of Naples. Mr. Owen is well versed to give such a

presentation, having worked extensively in the Fakahatchee State Preserve for the last five or so years. Besides Mr. Owens' obvious expertise and familiarity with the complex subject, the slides he used were excellent, taken by himself and other talented photographers.

I particularly enjoyed the presentation since I've spent many an interesting hour in the

areas described. SWFAS has been offered an opportunity to work with the State Park Service and others to better document the archaeological sites in the Fakahatchee

Preserve. This work may begin very soon, and when we hear further word on when and how this important work will begin, we will relay the information to the membership. Be advised that walking (or slogging) through water and dense vegetation, and being very close to snakes and other wildlife will be part of the

activity, so be sure you feel up to it!

On another note, our president Betsy Perdichizzi has laid out in this issue the need for volunteers to help and help organize the many events in which SWFAS will be participating. Please sign up and help where you feel you can, we really need you!

We will have a very interesting speaker this month (see notice inside) that will talk about her work at Lamanai, an important Mayan site in northern Belize.

My apologies to anyone who came to FGCU on the wrong night as a result of a mistake in the Datebook. I'll try not to let this happen again and will ask Jack Thompson to proof each new issue before going to press.

### *Inside this Newsletter*

- 1 We have Moved! Florida Gulf Coast University is the new site of our General Meetings**
- 2 Any Intelligent life down there? Read Jack Harvey...**
- 6 My Apologies I messed up...sorry!**

**THE DATE BOOK**

**October 9th SWFAS Board Meeting** – Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 7:00 PM

**October 16th SWFAS General Meeting** 7:30 PM Room 149, Reed Hall, Florida Gulf Coast University

**About SWFAS**

**The directorate:** President Betsy Perdichizzi, first vice president Tom Franchino, second vice president Corbett Torrence, membership secretary Charlie Strader, treasurer Charlie Strader, recording secretary Jo Ann Grey, directors Steve Tutko, Sue Long, Dottie Thompson, Jo Ann Grey, Don Taggart, Jack Thompson, John Beriault, Charlie Strader, Theresa (Torrence) Schober, and Dr Susan Stans.

The committees: Field: Beriault, 434-0624; Hospitality: position open; Membership: Charlie Strader, 941-992-6133; 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. Beriault, acting editor, P.O. Box 9074, Naples, FL 34101-9074 or Email to: [JGBeriault@aol.com](mailto:JGBeriault@aol.com).

**People Power!**

By Betsy Perdichizzi

We have unique opportunities coming up that will be challenging and rewarding:

Volunteer at Craighead Lab on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. It is a "hands on" opportunity to analyze artifacts from Old Marco Inn which is associated with one of "the most important digs in North America" the Pepper Hearst Expedition of 1896. We encourage our members as well as other archaeological societies to "come on down."

Help Build a County Museum! The Collier County Commissioners have designated land for a museum on Marco and given a \$25,000 grant for the model and design for a museum to tell the story of the Pepper Hearst Expedition, the Calusa Indians, and the pioneers. The county will maintain the museum if we will build it. If we want a museum we have to raise the money for it. No one is going to build it for us. SWFAS should be first in line with support,

encouragement, help, varied talents and resources. The museum steering committee is being formed now. Call Betsy 394-6917

The archaeology festival "Unmask the Past, Discover the Future", March 22 and 23, 2003 to be held for the first time on Marco Island is being planned now. It is a fundraiser for the new county museum. We need writers, illustrators, publicity, hospitality, guides, participants as well as a great attendance when the event takes place. We are planning to have two to three thousand people at the event. Your help is not only important it is absolutely critical.

Old Florida Days is November 3. Craighead lab is always open, also SWFAS needs to sponsor a table for our society to attract new members, advertise the festival on Marco Island, sell some books or videos, and talk to people about who and what we are, and why history and prehistory is important.

The monthly newsletter, the lifeline of our society, needs input before the 20th of each month . Dust off your writing talent and submit something that you are interested in!

We want a November field trip to see the new museum in Gainesville. A dozen people raised their hands at the meeting.

Who will make some calls for arrangements? Please step forward, your board members arranged the last two field trips. Now it is your turn!

You make the Society.

We are ready to launch a major project at the Craighead Lab. Over a two-year period Bob Carr and John Beriault monitored work at the Olde Marco Inn during construction of a hotel and parking garage. SWFAS, the Historical Society on Marco and the property owner have agreed to have us process and analyze the artifacts collected. At the moment a few of us are working on a few boxes to be sure the paperwork and data recorded will do the job.

We will then call those who have volunteered to join us. A sign up sheet was circulated at the September meeting. Working hours will be Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Saturday. Call 239-597-2269 to have your name on the list.

You will be finding things similar to those artifacts Cushing noted in 1896.

## OCTOBER MEETING

by Jack Thompson  
Laura Howard, Field Director of the Lamanai Archaeological Project, will discuss "Ancient Maya Cities: Featuring Lamanai, Its History and How You Can Help Sustain Its Future. The group will meet at Florida Gulf Coast University in

Reed Hall, room 149 at 7:30 PM on October 16.

Laura will begin her program with a brief overview of the Maya area, its culture and its people. Her discussion will include the history of its excavation and research; the Lamanai Archaeological Project's involvement in a unique community development endeavor and the Inter-American Development Bank's assistance with a major restoration project.

Call 239-597-2269 for directions.

## BEAM ME UP...

I have asked for, and gotten, all sorts of submissions over the years. I think the following is one of the neatest I've received, and probably a chance to publish fiction, but some whose premise could well come true 20,000 years from now. Jack Thompson submitted this and tells me it is the work of SWFAS member Jack Harvey who is also a member of the team at the Craighead Lab.

**Memo For File**  
September 11, 22,002 Ice Planet Memo #1

by Jack Harvey

This preliminary Memo For File covers our initial field

## PAGE THREE

survey of the newly discovered

water ice planet reported to Fleet Archeology Service. As the ship captain who discovered this planet reported, there was indeed a civilization on the planet at one time. She indicated that very little trace of it could be found, but using our field techniques we were able to locate numerous sites in equatorial regions of the planet. At some of them we found major deposits of cultural materials and artifacts from the civilization. From the cultural material, we have already reconstructed the language and have translated records that give us a good picture of the state of that civilization before it failed.

It appears that this species did not develop conventional means to deal with a changing planet climate. When a new ice age began to develop, the resulting loss of land and resources to the glaciers apparently caused intense territorial behavior by tribes of the dominant species. Wars and famine decimated their numbers and they may have become extinct. So far, we have found no living specimens, although abundant examples of non-intelligent species are found in temperate and tropical zones of the planet. (Our zoological colleagues continue to search.)

However, we did find an excellently preserved library of their records at what was probably one of their last

surviving cities, a place they called Brasilia. Two of our interns successfully hacked into the preserved computer databases justifying completely, I may point out, my decision to include undergraduate interns on the field staff) and from these data, we reconstructed three of the languages, one of which seems to be predominant. In accordance with standard practice, I am transmitting this memo in that ancient language in order to upgrade your universal translators.

The Brasilia records were apparently done by one of the last viable tribes of the species before a final breakdown. The Brasilia site lies near the planet equator and so was one of the last places to be seriously affected by the cooling climate. It was at its peak during the declining ages of the species, so it may not be representative, however. From historical records found at the Brasilia site, we were able to determine that a far larger example of the civilization existed much closer to the north pole of the planet. About 18,000 years ago, it was the location of the central government of the planet. Therefore, we considered relocating our major effort to this site, which was called New York.

But a quick review of the planetary photos obtained from orbit showed that the location of the New York site is now at the edge of the northern ice cap. Since the ice sheet is receding at the moment, it seemed likely that the great metropolis had been completely

destroyed by previous glaciation events. However, since a visit to the edge of the ice sheet was needed anyway to resolve other chemical and physical questions for our colleagues, it seemed worthwhile to visit the New York site to learn what might be left there.

Briefly summarizing the local history, records from the Brasilia site (accessed by my interns) told us that New York was a vast area supporting nearly a billion members of the species at its height. It grew up around a major harbor from the seafaring age of the civilization and lasted for nearly 1,700 years. Before it became the planet capital, the original city had only a few million of the species, but expanded dramatically after achieving planet-wide political dominance. It consisted of several islands around the harbor, the central of which was called Manhattan.

I took a small exploration party to the New York site yesterday, landing on a freshwater lake located where the ancient harbor used to be. The terminal moraine from previous glaciation has now dammed the mouth of the harbor. Although the falling ocean level (due to the climate shift) had drained all

seawater from the harbor, the moraine darn caused it to refill to essentially the same level with fresh melt water from the ice sheet.

The ice sheet has receded several miles north from the harbor, exposing perhaps the southern third of Manhattan. From the lake, this vast broken glacier face forms a nearly white backdrop for the geological surface of the island. The weather traces and other sensor data indicate that the ice sheet has ground over the land at least three times in the last 3,600 years. Naturally, there is nothing left on the island surface of the great city that once stood there.

A trained archaeologist found, however, indications of immense concrete and steel foundations that were implanted deep into the bedrock of the island, too deep for the glaciers to gouge out yet. And our sensors could detect traces of large tunnels (possibly for vehicles or water) deep underground and under the lake near the island. Beyond doubt, this was the site of a huge metropolis of intelligent creatures. With the towering glacier backdrop for the great hills of black sediment dropped by the melting ice, it is a beautiful and awesome place. My copilot for the trip took a somewhat blurry snapshot showing the ice sheet on Manhattan Island from near the center of the placid lake where the old harbor once lay.

Please see Figure I below.



Figure I Edge of Ice Sheet  
on Manhattan Island  
September 10, 22,002

After obtaining the required samples of water ice our colleagues need from the glacier face, we returned to the Brasilia site last evening. Regretfully, I must recommend that due to the condition of the New York site, no further archaeological exploration is justified at this time. There really is nothing left worth recovering and we must concentrate on the rich cultural deposits here at the Brasilia site. Although the sensors discovered an anomaly: a huge sunken mass of metallic copper at one spot in the western part of the harbor, we have no idea what it could be, or if it is even relevant to the civilization that once arose on the planet. A future expedition may find it worthwhile to investigate. The geology team might extract a sample of the metal later during this

trip if time permits, but they have much to do that is clearly more important. Please see their reports.

Of the creatures themselves that built this now dead civilization, there is not one trace.

**PAGE FIVE**

#### **APOLOGIES TO THE MEMBERSHIP**

I'm afraid last issue I made what even for me, was a pretty bad mistake which involved the inconveniencing of at least three people, and possibly more that I am, as yet, unaware. I put down the wrong day in the Date book for our general meeting. The meeting place was also wrong, but the University changed our meeting room after we went to press. I greatly regret this mistake and the trouble it caused for people. Until further notice, please be advised that we will always meet on the third Wednesday of each month. If you need to verify the date, time and place of any event is correct, please email me at: [jgberiault@aol.com](mailto:jgberiault@aol.com). Thank you and my apologies...