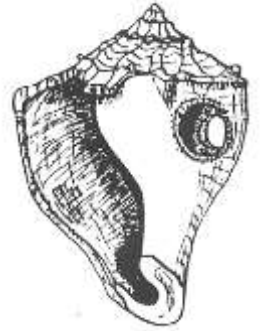


SWFAS

# NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR VOLUME 19, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 2003



Stuart Brown officially begins the pottery firing April 12<sup>th</sup> event at Hickey's Creek by creating a fire using the bow drill. Robin and Sarah Brown together with interested onlookers watch. This traditional technique undoubtedly was what insured 90% of the clay creations held together! Photograph courtesy of Jo Ann Grey

## John Gifford Tells Us About Little Salt Spring At May Meeting

Dr. John Gifford of the University of Miami has always proven to be a fascinating and very knowledgeable speaker, and so he proved to be when he

presented his program to SWFAS at the May meeting. I was initially very impressed when he showed himself the master of the intricate

controls of the FGCU computerized media center, and then with his memory of having spoken to us ten or more years ago at our old, old meeting place at an area bank. Dr. Gifford gave us a

concise and easy to understand explanation of the sinkhole origin of the Little Salt Spring Site in Sarasota County, the previous research done there by Col. Bill Royal, Carl Clausen and himself, and the current method of operation of digging down through nearly 3 meters of sediment as much as 20 meters underwater to reach Archaic and Paleo period zones on the downsloping

upper edges of the feature. Dr. Gifford showed video footage of the painstaking and precarious work and slides of artifacts recovered. The potential of Little Salt Springs to strengthen our understanding of paleo period humanity back at least as far as 13,000 years before present was made very clear. We can only hope Dr. Gifford will make this breakthrough in scientific understanding of the early nomadic hunters of Pleistocene Florida and then, after the media frenzy subsides, return to tell SWFAS the details.

## *Inside this Newsletter*

- 1 We have Moved! Florida Gulf Coast University is the new site of our General Meetings
- 2 **Fieldtrip to the Randell Research Center on Pineland June 14th**

**THE DATEBOOK**

**June 11th** SWFAS Board Meeting, Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 7:00 PM

**June 14th** Fieldtrip to Randell Research Center at Pineland and Lunch at the Tarpon Inn

**About SWFAS**

**The directorate:** President Tom Franchino, first vice president Corbett Torrence second vice president Theresa Schoeber, membership secretary Charlie Strader, treasurer Charlie Strader, recording secretary Jo Ann Grey, directors Bud House, Sue Long, Liz Clement, Jo Ann Grey, Don Taggart, Jack Thompson, John Beriault, Charlie Strader, John Worth, 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).

**CRAIGHEAD LAB NOTES**

by Jack Thompson

Jan Gooding, Betsy Mc Carthy and, soon, Liz Clement have left for the north.

It puts a hole in our staff. Jack Harvey continues to work long hours on our database and Horse Creek Camp files. This month his name was added to the 200 hours of volunteer work at the lab.

Art Lee, Jean Belknap, Jack Thompson and Walt Buschelman are still regulars. Alt Buschelman is reviewing the Goodland files. We are temporarily out of Olde Marco Inn material and hope more will arrive. If you are interested in helping, drop by on Tuesday or Thursday mornings.

**FIELD TRIP TO PINELAND**

In lieu of our June meeting, SWFAS members will take a Saturday field trip to the Randell Research Center on June 14th. Members should arrive by 10:00 a.m. for a tour of the Pineland archaeological site, which features multiple shell mound complexes, burial mounds, and the western end of the Pine Island

canal. Members may picnic on the site, or eat lunch at the Tarpon Lodge across the street. Reservations for the trip and/or lunch should be phoned in to Tom Franchino at (239) 263-8357 no later than June 7th.

Directions to site: from Fort Myers take Midpoint Bridge (College Ave.) west into Cape Coral, following Veteran's Parkway all the way to intersection with Pine Island Rd. (state hwy. 78). Turn left and pass through Matlacha to intersection of Stringfellow Rd. at Pine Island Center. Turn right and go 3.1 miles to Pineland Rd. on left; turn left and go 1.5 miles (past RRC headquarters) to RRC sign and gate on right just past and across from Tarpon Lodge on left. Turn through gate on right and proceed to parking area next to picnic tables.

**POTTERY FIRING EVENT AT HICKEY'S CREEK APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> – ALL  
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JO ANN GREY**



Stuart Brown prepares to use the bow drill to light the fire in the already-prepared pine needles and tinder



The fire has been spread completely around the ring of brush and tinder to start the firing process



After the fire dies, there are the vitrified (fired) pots, nearly all of them intact!



A fine collection of ceramic productions and great souvenirs of a wonderful event!