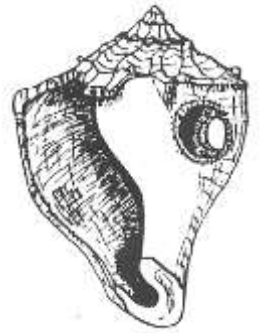


SWFAS

NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



JOHN G. BERIAULT, ACTING EDITOR VOLUME 19, NUMBER 7

JULY, 2003



This is a 40+ year old illustration by an artist named Griff Richcreek that appeared in an article in *The Miami Herald Sunday Magazine* December 10th, 1961. Pretty good, except for the large metallic-looking knife the fellow is using to carve his deer head. We know more now than we did then... or do we?

John Worth Gives Excellent Tour of Pineland Site

Dr. John Worth, as all will agree, is an excellent historical researcher and archaeologist. He has traveled to many archives in Europe

and the Americas studying primary sources and translating them from their archaic Spanish so new light can be shed on the little known and at present scant documentation of the early dealings by the Spaniards with the Calusa Indians. There is another side to Dr. Worth known

to all of us who have interacted with him – he is a really nice guy! John Worth is always pleasant, low-key, helpful, and gives a lot of time and effort to

whatever he commits himself. He certainly committed himself to giving SWFAS a thorough and enjoyable tour of the Pineland Site June 14th. We began at the parking lot and worked our way around the large site, stopping in the shade of the trees (very welcome!) during that hot and sunny morning where Dr.

Worth gave us concise and interesting accounts of what the mounds signified, recent work done in these areas, etc. We saw the latest area of excavation, covered with tarps to keep out the abundant rain and heard that the latest C-14 dates suggest the area (to the southeast of the main site complex) was occupied c. 530AD or about a century before the concerted effort to construct the high mounds at Pineland. After the tour, many of us went across the road to eat a fine lunch at the Tarpon Inn. Thanks, John, we learned much from you and had an enjoyable, memorable time!

Inside this Newsletter

- 1 We have Moved! Florida Gulf Coast University is the new site of our General Meetings
- 2 Fieldtrip to the Weedon Island Site July 19th

THE DATEBOOK

July 9th SWFAS Board Meeting, Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs, 7:00 PM

July 19th Fieldtrip to Weedon Island and the Anderson/Narvaez Site, St. Petersburg – See following article for directions

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.

**JULY 19th
FIELD TRIP**

by Jack Thompson

In place of the regular July meeting, SWFAS will have a field trip to St. Petersburg on July 19 to visit the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. Nearby is the Anderson/Narvaez Mound excavated by the South Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society. They have moved their lab there. Members, guests and the general public may attend.

We will begin at Weedon Island at 11:00 A.M. From North Naples it is 150 miles, allow 3 hours. Take I-75 to Bradenton, exit 228 will put you on I-275 to St. Pete. Take the SR-694 exit toward Pinellas Park/ Seminole, keep left at the fork on the ramp, turn right on Gandy Blvd, right on San Martin Blvd NE. The sign says Weedon Dr NE. and San Martin Blvd. where you turn left to go into the Preserve. Turn slight left onto Weedon Dr. NE. We will tour the mound site and the Cultural Center. Weedon Island pottery was first found here in 1924. There is a picnic area if you wish.

Directions to the Anderson/Narvaez Mound will be handed out. There is a Jamaican Restaurant at the parking lot for the mound,

which is recommended. We will start the second tour at 2:00 P.M.

Call Tom Franchino at 239-263-8357 for a reservation.

**A DAY WITH
DAD – OR DON'T
TRY TO DO
THIS AT HOME**

Many of us are parents with justifiable pride in our children. I'm very proud of my son, a young man who just earned two consecutive associate degrees at Waycross Community College. He was Student President and editor of the college newspaper. While he was on his spring break, he visited me during a project I was working on in the Northern Ten Thousand Islands. It was sort of like a "visit Dad at work" day, but on a more mature level. He went back and wrote the following article in the school paper:

**A Day in the Ten
Thousand Islands**

by Andrew Beriault

During my spring break I had an exciting chance to work on an archeological project in south Florida. My dad, John Beriault, is a

contract archeologist for a firm out of Miami, Florida. Florida has very strict conservation laws. Wetlands and historical sites are protected.

Before construction companies and development firms can begin clearing land, they must first have it surveyed by a licensed archeological firm, that's where my dad comes in. He visits the area and searches for any signs of archeological or historical significances and then produces a report, but not all his work comes from private organizations or building firms.

On this particular occasion, the company he works for had permission and sponsorship from The Rookery Bay National Marine Reserve and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enter government protected land and survey it. The official name of the project is the Ten Thousand Island Archaeological Assessment. The Ten Thousand Islands are located approximately 20 miles southeast of Naples, Florida. The area was previously looked over using satellite imagery to determine where the most likely areas to find Indian sites were. Now I know what you thinking. You're wondering how someone is going to find Indian remains on a satellite image. Here's your answer.

In south Florida where he lives and mostly

works, there is a lot of swamp and marshland. In fact, the Ten Thousand Islands make up part of the lower end of the Fakahatchee and Picayune Strands of Big Cypress Swamp. Indians who lived in the area would obviously want to find high ground in which to inhabit. Those high spots are natural hammocks, no not the ones you swing in, and shell mounds. Those high spots are still around today and it is the kind of thing my dad looks for.

Luckily for me the project was not completely finished when our spring break came around, and I was given permission to tag along. With us was Steve Bertone who works for The Rookery Bay Foundation. He piloted the boat and also operated the GPS device we were using to map the sites we found.

We started off on a perfect day. Hardly a cloud in the sky, and I was told the mosquito population had not gone into full swing yet. As we left the dock, the air was still cool and I remember thinking how nice it was to be back in south Florida and how long it has been since I had been out on anything like this. I use to go out with my dad on these digs when I was a kid; only now my legs had grown considerably, so the muck and mud would only be up to my shins instead of my knees.

I do need to clarify one thing. When most people

think of the islands, they probably think of white beaches, coconut trees, and Tom Hanks screaming for help. The islands we visited were mangrove islands. The kind of place you are lucky if you only sink a couple of inches in the mud when you got out of the boat. Some of the ones the project visited did have substantial ground that had been cleared off and had people living on them up to just 30 years ago, but for the most part, they are now what most would consider pretty miserable places.

The first site we visited that day was on an island surround by slimy slippery mangrove roots and mud, lots and lots of mud. As we got out of the boat I remember looking back at Steve Bertone who looked like he was thinking the same thing as me, "this had better be worth it." My dad seemed confident, so we trudged on. Right about the time I finished my list of what normal people do on their spring break, I looked up and could see trees. Not mangrove trees, but Gumbo Limbos and jamaica dogwoods, the kind of trees that make up a natural hammock. I was really surprised. I was wondering how could these trees grow in this swamp muck. Then I noticed the ground they were on was raised about 4 feet from where the mangroves grew. It was a big shell

mound that was around 30 feet deep and several hundred feet long. Since we were only there to map and not to excavate, my dad and Steve Bertone went around the shell mound with the GPS and mapped it at certain points, so the mound would be noted for future study. I was left to wander and look for shell hammers, pottery, and other signs that would confirm this was an Indian site. I saw some possibilities, but nothing substantial, and again since we were only there to look and not dig I wasn't that surprised.

The last stop of the day was completely different. This site was both archeological and historical. As soon as we got out of the boat, we found pieces of pottery. One of the pieces Steve Bertone found could even be dated because it was a rim piece and had intricate designs familiar to a certain group and period. I say the site was also historical because we also found two huge rain cisterns, concrete structure used to catch rainwater, and evidence of a house which could be dated back to the early 1900's. The area was surely cleared off a hundred years ago when these people were there, but it was almost eerie looking around a place filled with mosquitoes and mangroves and wondered what kind of life these people had. It had taken us a half an

hour by motorboat just to get there, and the marina we left from probably was not there a hundred years ago. It would have been a whole different movie if Tom Hanks had landed on that beach.

That was pretty much the end of my part in the Ten Thousand Island Archaeological Assessment. The project was just the beginning of what I'm sure will turn out to be some very exciting finds. I recently emailed my dad and asked him how he thought the project had gone and he wrote back, "We studied some fabulous coastal sites, both archaeological and historical, generated some interesting maps, and will produce what I hope will be an important report." I was glad to have been given the opportunity to go out and at least have a small part in it. My dad is a very interesting person with a very interesting job and I have always been very proud of him. Archeology is not a job for everyone. It requires long treks into very inhospitable places with no guarantee you'll find anything, but it can be a very rewarding when you do. I not saying I'm going to change my major, but it was a great experience.