

Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Newsletter



BETSY MCCARTHY, EDITOR

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NOVEMBER MEETING

We will meet on November 19 at 7:30 PM in Ben Hill Griffin Hall, Room 109, with refreshments served after 7 PM.

Lori D. Collins will discuss "A GIS Approach to Historical Archaeology at Indian Key Historic State Park in the Florida Keys". Indian Key was a bustling wrecking community in the 1830s. Later it had several periods of use including military, lighthouse and ship construction activities. GPS/GIS survey data helped to understand the built environment over time, including new information on the island's street system and community layout.

Lori is a PhD Candidate in Public Archaeology at USF. Her thesis research and working experience has provided the background needed for this work. Her dissertation research interest centers on the hammock in Pasco, Hernando and Citrus Counties.

Members, guests and the public are welcome to attend. Call (239) 597-2269 for directions if needed.

OCTOBER MEETING

At the October SWFAS meeting Dr William H. Marquardt spoke on his

twenty year experience in southwest Florida archaeology. His talk summarized the changes in Florida archaeology. He gave SWFAS credit for enhancing that experience.

JOHN BEREALT

After serving as interim newsletter editor for an exemplary five years, John Bereault leaves the country. Don't know if he worried he'd be put back on the job or not. I promised to do my best. Our thanks for the excellent job he has done and my thanks for easing my way in working on the newsletter.

At the October meeting much appreciation was expressed for a job well done. John continues in his roll as board member

MUSEUM WORK

Finally, many archaeologists are based in museums, where their work entails:

- a) looking after collections of objects that nobody ever studies
- b) putting on exhibitions, and

- c) thinking up ways to amuse and instruct the appalling hordes of screaming schoolchildren inflicted on them by desperate teachers.

Their lives are also blighted by occasional lunatics, and by an endless stream of citizens demanding to have some object identified which they have dug up in the garden or found on the beach. Not unnaturally a great many archaeologists encountered in the field are museum people who have managed a fleeting escape.

From Bluff your way in Archaeology, by Paul Bahn.

CRAIGHEAD LABORATORY NOTES

By Jack Thompson

With the return of vacationers, we are now up to normal staffing. Art Lee, Betsy McCarthy, Jean Belknap, Liz Clement, Jan Gooding, Jack Harvey and Jack Thompson are at the lab Tuesday and Thursday mornings. The Horse Creek Camp dig final report is now being written, Jack Harvey is reviewing the computerized tables and charts for the Strader site. Analysis continues on the Addison Key site.

Recently we had 40 students visit from Seacrest middle school. And on October 31 are scheduled to see about 4000 school children for the Old Florida Festival. We were also open on November 1 and 2 for the public event.

If anyone would like to work in the Lab please call Jack Thompson at 239-597-2269.

SWFAS BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 2003

By Jack Thompson

The SWFAS Board of Directors meets on the second Wednesday each month at the Hampton Inn in Bonita Springs at 7 PM. All members are welcome to attend.

In October, a committee was appointed to begin planning Archaeology Day 2004 in March. See Charlie Strader, Corbett Torrence or Jack Thompson if you would like to help.

The laboratory will buy a new computer and update the old one to allow two people to work at the same time. Betsy Perdichizzi is looking for volunteers to visit school classrooms on Marco Island to talk about archaeology.

On November 10 there will be a meeting at the Collier County Courthouse to discuss alternate plans for purchase of the Otter property on Marco Island. Negotiations between the state of Florida and the property owner had fallen through. For more information call 239-394-6917.

WHAT IS THE OTTER MOUND SITE?

This parcel represents at least 10 to 15 feet in depth of shell refuse and midden deposits dating back at least 2000 years, according to Bob Carr, Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, who analyzed the archaeologically sensitive site. Although no human graves have been recorded at the site, Calusa burials could exist there.

Carr states that the construction of the shell walled terraces around

much of the site contributes to its unique quality. Although research indicates walls were constructed in mid-twentieth century by Ernest Otter, homesteader, these walls are built from thousands of whelk shells and are regarded as a historic landscape feature eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

WHY A HISTORICAL MUSEUM ON MARCO ISLAND?

By H. Nickel, B. Perdichizzi, M. Nickel and W. Perdichizzi

Marco Island is one of the most important archaeological sites in the Southeastern United States. It was here, in 1896, that Frank Hamilton Cushing discovered the hitherto totally unknown Calusa culture, a find comparable to the celebrated discoveries of the site of Troy by Heinrich Schliemann or of the long forgotten Bronze Age culture of Minoan Crete by Sir Arthur Evans. The objects unearthed on Marco Island, such as the famous Marco Cat, are at present distributed over several museums; the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, the University Museum in Philadelphia, the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, and even the British Museum in London. Every publication about Florida's Native American heritage shows proudly objects found on Marco Island (not always acknowledging their provenance) but ironically, with the exception of the Marco Cat. These otherwise world-famous finds are underrepresented on Marco Island itself.

The planned Museum on Marco Island will be specifically dedicated to the history of the island, with emphasis on its unique archaeological significance.

MARCO ISLAND VOLUNTEER

Betsy Perdichizzi has a volunteer. At the end of the October meeting, Brooke Denkert, who is a beginning archaeology student offered to go to Tommie Barfield Elementary School on Marco Island.

Anyone else interested in volunteering to share knowledge of archaeology with school children may contact Betsy at 394-6917.

ABOUT SWFAS

The Directorate:

President-Tom Francino
 First Vice President-Corbett Torrence
 Second Vice President-Theresa Schober
 Membership Secretary-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- John Beriault – 434-0624
 Hospitality – Position open
 Membership and Treasurer – Charlie Strader –(239)992-6633
 Publicity – Dottie Thompson – 597-2269
 Finances – Jack Thompson – 597-2269

Lab – 774-8517 -- Art Lee – 261-4939
Walt Buschelman – 775-9734
Jack Thompson – 597-2269

To Join:

Address your Check to the Southwest Florida Archaeology Society, PO Box 9965, Naples, Florida 34101.

Dues are – Individual \$20. Sustaining \$50. Family \$35. Student \$15.

Questions, comments, or contributions to the newsletter: Betsy McCarthy, 909-8 Augusta Blvd, Naples FL 34113 or e-mail popismom@hotmail.com