

# Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Newsletter



BETSY MCCARTHY, EDITOR

Vol. 20 No. 3

March 2004

## COME TO THE CALUSA FEST

On Saturday, March 27, SWFAS and the Collier County Museum will have a Calusa Fest from 10:00 AM to 4:00 Pm. All members should attend. Volunteers are needed to set up displays and tables before 9 AM, to sit at the lobby entrance to direct and count visitors and to help Charlie Strader at the food center. Sign up at our next regular meeting.

## MARCH SWFAS MEETING

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society will hold it's March meeting at Florida Gulf Coast University, Building Academic III, room 124. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM with refreshments served at 7 PM.

The speaker will be Carmen Lopez Jordan, a PHD candidate in History from FIU. She teaches as an adjunct at Miami Dade College. She will discuss **Culture and Resistance Among The Calusa: 1565-1743** and will explain how cultural differences rendered the success of Spanish missionary efforts close to impossible.

Those interested in archaeology and history are invited to attend. For

further information, call 239-597-2269.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

By Jack Thompson

Corbett Torrence spoke to us about "SEEING LEVEL—RETHINKING SEA LEVEL RISE AT THE PINELAND SITE". He explained his theories about man's adaptation to nature. The sea did not suddenly rise three meters, but a whole generation might hardly notice the change. In time their descendents might be located a considerable distance inland

## CALUSA FEST

On Saturday, March 27 from 10AM to 4 PM, the Collier County Museum and Southwest Florida Archaeological Society will offer a free day's outing for the entire family!

Dr. Randolph Widmer will speak on THE EVOLUTION OF THE CALUSAS-20 YEARS LATER.

Dr. John Worth will speak on SEEKING THE LOST CALUSAS.

John Beriault will speak on SHELL TOOL MANUFACTURING.

Corbett Torrence will speak on RIDGES, RESIDENCE AND REFUSE: A MODEL OF CALUSA FOOD AND MOUND BUILDING.

Dr Robin Brown will discuss his new book, *THE CRAFTS OF FLORIDA'S FIRST PEOPLE* written for children 10 years and older. Book signing proceeds will go to the Randell Research Center on Pine Island.

There will be an ARTIFACT ROADSHOW table where experts will examine artifacts brought in by the public for identification.

Historic reenactors will portray a flint knapper, Calusa Indian and an atlatl spear thrower.

Cold drinks and hot dogs will be available for sale.

For more information call the Collier County Museum 239-774-8476.

## **SWFAS FIELD TRIP TO MIAMI**

By Tom Franchino

Despite the brisk temperature, Saturday December 20, 2003 was a perfect day for the SWFAS' field trip to downtown Miami. The sky was clear and blue, and the sunshine made for a beautiful day. Around nineteen members along with several guests met our host Robert Carr at the Sheraton Biscayne Bay. Bob was the former Archaeologist for Miami Dade County and presently is the Executive Director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc.

This site, where the Miami River meets Biscayne Bay, is historically and archaeologically rich. The Sheraton sits on the site of the

Brickell family home. The hotel's entry drive and tree island caps the buried remains of the Brickell family homestead, and it's rich historical record. Bob Carr led us to the neighboring 3-4 acre parcel, given to the city of Miami by Mrs. Brickell. The site contains the beautiful mausoleum of the Brikell family. The mausoleum and its two fluted granite columns and six marble casket holders still remain. However, the city in its negligent effort to protect the tombs removed and "lost" its heavy bronze doors and the two urns which flanked the doors.

Immediately next to the mausoleum lies a burial ground for members of the Brickell family. The city had contracted to sell the site for \$18 million dollars despite the deed restrictions on its original transfer to the city. The heirs to the Brickell family withdrew their objection to the sale when offered one-half of the sale proceeds by the city.

The discovery of over one hundred Tequesta burials on the site have served to derail the sale for the present.

Next we walked to the north side of the Sheraton, the site of the "Miami Circle". The small two acre site is now covered with dirt and grassed over. Originally it was a peninsula which ran along the Miami River and jutted into Biscayne Bay. The primary Tequesta village sat on both sides of the Miami River at bayside.

We walked to the top of the Brickell Ave. bridge in order to cross to the north side of the Miami River. At the apex of the bridge we viewed a

sculptured column topped by a large bronze of a Tequesta warrior.

Many blocks of downtown Miami are being razed and rebuilt into the Miami One project. Several dozen concrete trucks were lined up along a several block area, waiting to unload. Bob Carr took us to a parking lot where a patch of asphalt has been removed. Ongoing excavation reveals a wealth of material, including human remains and shell artifacts from the prehistoric, and musketballs and glass from the historic past.

Near the site stood a fort constructed and manned by the United States in the nineteenth Century. It was previously used by the Tequesta for burials.

Across the street, we were led to view another site covered by a parking lot. Here also were found historical and prehistorical remains. The front porch of the Royal Palm Hotel, the first luxury accommodation in downtown Miami, stood on this site. It was the original shoreling for Biscayne Bay.

These sites are soon to be obliterated by the pilings, to be driven to the bedrock below, which are needed to support the skyscrapers of Miami One.

After lunch we visited the Historical Museum of Southern Florida located on the Library complex at 101 West Flagler. This fine museum displays a wide collection of prehistoric and historic artifacts. On display are of mockup of, and artifacts found in the Miami Circle site. Also on display are artifacts from our SW Florida area. A gorgeous cross gorget from

Key Marco is on display along with beautiful shell and stone artifacts. In addition, a metal communion wafer press from Mound Key is on display. The press stems from the Spanish attempt to establish a mission on Mound Key.

The museum was a great end to a wonderful and interesting visit to Miami. We thank Bob Carr for his time and generosity in leading our tour.

### **BARRON'S QUEEN, THE MYSTERIOUS LOSS OF THE "QUEEN OF NASSAU"**

**Naples** – July 2, 1926, the cruiser "Queen of Nassau" sinks under mysterious circumstances south of Lower Matecumbe Key, Florida. Purchased by Barron G. Collier in 1924 and used as an inter-island cruise ship for the lucrative Nassau-Miami route, the vessel proves to be a financial failure. Did she sink on her own or did she have some help? Find out from Tane Casserley, the archaeologist who has been exploring the wreck in a program presented at the Collier County Museum on April 10 from 12 to 2PM.

Mr Casserley is an underwater archaeologist who is working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to investigate the "Queens" sinking. The ship rests in remarkably good condition, lying intact on top of the sand in 230 feet of water. He will share his experiences of exploration via historic photographs, pictures of the shipwreck, video documentation and drawings, as well as a digital mosaic of the entire wreck. The speaker's

appearance is being sponsored courtesy of NOAA.

Mr. Casserley 's research will be included in a segment of the History Channel's "**Deep Sea Detectives**" series. Collier County Museum Director, Ron Jamro will also appear in the program, discussing Barron Collier and his enterprises. The piece airs on May 25, 2004.

The steamer, "Queen of Nassau" began her days as Canadian Government Ship "Canada". Built in England in 1904 and placed into service in the Canadian Navy in 1911, this ship was one of the most influential in Canadian history. The vessel was used to protect fisheries, provide coastal defense and perform policing activities. The "Canada" marked the transition from traditional wooden schooners to modern steel cruisers. The "Canada" was the fastest ship in the Fisheries Protection fleet.

The public is invited to attend this special lecture and to visit the Collier County Museum's 5 acre site. Refreshments will be served.

FMI 239-774-8476.

### **SWFAS MEMBER SHARES HER STORIES IN CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE NATURE LOVER'S SOUL**

Feb.24,2004 – A SWFAS member's work is gracing the pages of one of the country's most popular book series. Two of Linda Ballou's stories, "MANATEE MEETING" and "JUMP, MULLET, JUMP" appear in *CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE NATURE LOVER'S SOUL: INSPIRING STORIES OF JOY,*

*INSIGHT AND ADVENTURE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS*, which arrives in bookstores March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ballou's stories are among the 85 stories in this latest edition of the Chicken Soup line of books

"What we were looking for," said editor Steve Zikman, "was a story that resonates, that was poignant and heartwarming." Linda Ballou was one of only three contributors to have more than one story in the book.

A Pine Island resident and SWFAS member since 1988, Ballou is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in a number of publications, including *Southern Boating*, *Cruising World*, *South American Explorer*, and the Rough Guide book *Women Travel*.

The list price of the book is \$12.95. To order an autographed copy from Linda directly contact here at 239-283-3416 or [Lindabai@aol.com](mailto:Lindabai@aol.com) for more information.

### **CRAIGHEAD LAB NOTES**

By Jack Thompson

We are back to the Olde Marco Inn project. The materials collected are most interesting. The lab will be working at the Calusa Fest. Drop in and we will show you what we do. Art Lee and Jack Harvey are nearing completion of the Horse Creek Camp report. Some will remember the 1983 dig at Wiggins Pass.

Lois Polewka is back in town, Liz Clement is in Ireland and Jan Gooding will be back soon.

## REMAINS LIKELY BELONG TO AMERICAN INDIANS

From the News Press, February 20, 2004

Human remains found beneath a downtown building site are likely those of American Indians and could be one of the most significant finds in the history of the nation's oldest city, according to the city archaeologist.

The bones were found Monday when the city conducted a routine archaeological excavation at the location of an eight-unit site.

City Archaeologist Carl Halbirt said his team of volunteers identified four or five sets of remains. They probably belong to Yamassee Indians who were in St. Augustine in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, he said.

"From a historic standpoint, this is one of the most significant finds we've ever made in St. Augustine," Halbirt said.

A mission called La Punta, with a church and scattered farmsteads, stood at the site between 1720 and the late 1750s, Halbirt said. The mission was home to 40 to 60 people.

"No one knows if the bodies were buried under the church or in an open graveyard because there isn't historical documentation", he said.

## ABOUT SWFAS –

### The Directorate:

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### To Join :

Address your check to : The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, PO Box 9965, Naples, FL 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](mailto:popismom@hotmail.com).