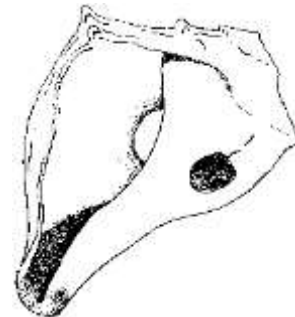


# Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Newsletter



BETSY MCCARTHY, EDITOR Vol. 20 No. 4

APRIL 2004

## APRIL SWFAS MEETING

John Beriault will speak at the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society on Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30 PM at Florida Gulf Coast University, Academic Building III, Room 124. His subject will be *Why Archaeologists and Plumbers Don't Bite Their Nails: Thoughts on the Miami Circle, Famous Site or Septic Tank Drain Field*. John was involved with the site from July 1996 to February 2000.

Beriault founded the Society in 1980 and has been a principle Archaeologist in this area. He received a BS in Botany from the University of Miami and served as Chapter President and President of the Florida Anthropological Society.

Those interested in prehistory are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served at 7:00 PM. Call 239-597-2269 for directions.

## CALUSA FEST

By Tom Francino

The SWFAS celebrated Archaeology Day 2004 by holding Calusa Fest on March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Collier County

Museum. All involved found the day's events to be the most successful Archaeology Festival to date. The weather and setting were perfect for the festival. The Friends of the Museum and David Southall provided much assistance and support in making the day a success. They are given much thanks for their efforts. SWFAS is very lucky to have as members and Directors such insightful and gifted speakers and John Beriault, Corbett Torrence, Dr. John Worth, and Dr. Robin Brown. They, along with Dr. Randolph Widmer presented a day's worth of informative and entertaining talks. In addition, Corbett and Theresa provided daylong presentations at the Mound House Exhibit, and John Beriault tirelessly demonstrated the atlatl. The presenters, re-enactors, State Park Rangers, and all volunteers combined their efforts to make the day an enjoyable one. I thank everyone involved for contributing their time and energy to this event. Most of all, I and the membership of SWFAS, thank Jack and Dorothy Thompson for their enormous investment of time in publicizing, planning, co-ordinating and making Calusa Fest a reality.

## ANNUAL CALUSA SYMPOSIUM

By Tom Francino

I spent a wonderful Saturday listening to the wonderful line-up of speakers at Calusa Fest; John Beriault, Dr. Robin Brown, Corbett Torrence, Dr Randolph Widmer, and Dr. John Worth. The laboratory and museum grounds were full of volunteers demonstrating Calusa methods and artifacts to the public. When the day's activities were near an end, Corbett, John Worth and Dr Widmer were enthusiastically discussing each other's presentations and comparing notes on their recent findings and conclusions regarding the Calusa. It occurred to me that our Festival served as a great and perhaps unique opportunity for these researchers and thinkers to come together regarding their strongest professional interest, the Calusa. I propose that SWFAS dedicate it's annual Archaeology to a Calusa Symposium bringing together those professionals and amateurs who research, study and formulate theories regarding the Calusa of Southwest Florida. I would appreciate receiving the input of all of our members on my proposal.



## MARCH SWFAS MEETING

By Liz Clement

The March speaker was Carmen Lopez, who has a MA from Florida

State and is currently working on her Doctorate at the University of Miami. Her topic was *Spanish missionary Work with the Calusa - Culture and Resistance Among the Calusa, 1565 – 1743.*

The Spanish made three attempts to establish a mission in SW Florida during the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, but they all failed. During the first attempt in 1566, Spain sent Jesuit monks and Franciscans, again in 1692 and again in 1743. Each expected that the "heathens would adopt Christianity once they found the true religion , but found resistance from the centuries old chieftan culture.

The Spaniards brought gifts such as oil, flour, wine, honey, beads and pottery which delighted the Calusa at first. However as these gifts ran out the Calusa realized it was just a way for the Spanish to gain control.

Each time friction arose as the Calusa resisted. The Indians continued their own cultural beliefs and fought the intrusion of the European lifestyle.

Excavations have shown that this antagonism continued well into the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Wooden ceremonial masks and images of animals were found and the material found at the Cushing site demonstrated that the Calusa had refused to accept the Catholic religion. These excavations revealed no evidence of agriculture.

Had SW Florida been priority territory there would have been more military presence and more financial support from the Crown.

It seems surprising that the Calusa never gave in, even to save themselves as they saw their numbers dying out from conflict and disease.

### CRAIGHEAD LAB NOTES

By Jack Thompson

With everyone preparing for the Calusa Fest, work continues on the Horse Creek Camp Site report. Art Lee is the writer, Betsy McCarthy is the artist, and the rest of us contribute with Jack Harvey organizing everything in the computer.

Marilyn Mayo, who is from Pennsylvania, is a welcome addition to our staff.

Lois Polewka has been back for a few months, but leaves in April. We'll miss her.

### THANKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF CALUSA FEST

As Chairman of the Calusa Fest program, on March 27<sup>th</sup>, I thank each and every volunteer who came to assist us.

Dave Southall of the Museum staff contributed heavily to the planning and execution.

This annual event is sponsored by the Florida Secretary of State and the Florida Anthropological Society.

#### ABOUT SWFAS –

President – Tom Francino, 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Corbett Torrence, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Theresa Schober, Rec. Sec. – Joann Grey, Treasurer – Charlie Strader, Membership – Charlie Strader.

TRUSTEES: Don Taggart, Dr. Susan Stans, Jack Thompson, Sue Long, Betsy Perdicizzi, Bud House, Liz Clement, Dr. John Worth, John Beriault, and Charlie Strader.

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.

### WESTERN ALASKA WOMAN AMONG THE LAST TO MAKE GRASS FOOTWEAR

By Sandi Gerjevic, Anchorage Daily News, Feb 12, 2004

“Lena Atti’s work appears deceptively simple. It doesn’t have the bold flourish of an Alutiiq hunting hat nor the girlish swirls of Athabaskan bead work. Atti needs no tools other than her hands. She has no pattern, no guide, no text....

Atti is a master weaver, a featured artist in the Alaska Native Heritage Center's ExxonMobil Master Artist Series, now in its fifth year...

At age 78 her fingers are still nimble if battered by a lifetime of tasks.... She spoke no English but understood some. Her Yup'ik name is Kayuungiar...

At around age 14, she began a study of grass weaving, with her mother as tutor. She learned mainly by observation. Her mother, she said, was willing to teach only if the student showed ability and willingness. While grass weaving is most often associated with basketry, in Atti's region, grass once was used for all manner of handy everyday items, including bags, backpacks, storage mats and sleeping pallets. Grass socks were worn mainly by men, the bulk of whose work was done in the snow....

Kelugkaq, the bright green grass that grows in abundance around her coastal community...is a kind of reed that Atti collects in late summer, when it's still green. Native women of her village typically gathered grass in bundles, as much as they could carry on their backs...

At home Atti sorts the grass and spreads it to dry. When it takes on a certain hue of yellow, she cleans it,

braids it and hangs it on nails on the sides of her cache house...

The reed used to make the socks is absorbent and wicks moisture away from the feet, keeping them dry and warm. Atti explained that people traditionally wrapped their feet in sacking, then stuffed them into the socks. The socks acted as a liner for their mukluks, or skin boots...

Atti said she never made grass socks for her husband. The only person she can remember wearing such garments was her father. Men wore short socks when working outside near home. They wore longer knee socks on hunting trips because they traveled in deep snow.

#### WANT AD

SWFAS is looking for a new publicity chair person.

Dottie Thompson has handled the publicity for many years and the time has come for a fresh approach.

She will help the new chairperson in every way possible. The job really does not entail that much work.

The Chair contacts the speaker each month, asking for a short biography, organizes the notice and sends it to ten local newspapers.

Please call Dottie Thompson at 239-597-2269. She'll be more than happy to answer any questions.