

Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Newsletter



BETSY MCCARTHY, EDITOR Vol. 20 No. 7

July 2004

JULY FIELD TRIP

In lieu of the regular July meeting, we will visit the Pineland site. At our last meeting we heard about the creation of the Calusa Trail, now you can visualize it by being on the spot.

Arrive at 10:00 am for a two hour tour. This will include the burial grounds, canal and shell mounds overlooking Pine Island Sound. You may bring a lunch or call the Tarpon Lodge restaurant for a reservation. 239-283-3999 or Tarponlodge.com. Guests are welcome. See map in this issue.

CRAIGHEAD LAB NEWS

The Lab staff is down to four people as Jean Belknap has gone to Michigan for a few weeks for a reunion.

The Horse Creek Camp Site report is in last revisions and the Olde Marco Inn material on hand has been analyzed and we're waiting for more.

For some time we have struggled with our computer. Fortunately we have Jack Harvey on board. He has added 40 gigabytes of storage and increased memory to allow us to process more complicated graphics.

A printer/scanner/copier has been added. We are also updated to Windows XP. This eliminated the need to replace the computer. Member (and Lab Rat) Lois Polewka donated the funds and we thank her.

ABOUT SWFAS-

President - Tom Francino
1st VP- Corbett Torrence
2nd VP- Theresa Schober
Rec. Sec.- Joann Greyl
Treasurer- Charlie Strader
Membership- Charlie Strader

TO JOIN-

Address your check to: The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, PO Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101.

DUES-

Individual -\$20. Family-\$35.
Sustaining-\$50. Student-\$15.

QUESTIONS, comments or contributions to the newsletter:

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LITTLE SALT SPRING OPEN HOUSE

By Jack Harvey

In last month's Newsletter, SWFAS members were invited to attend an Open House presentation at Little Salt Spring near North Port, Florida on Saturday, June 12. The University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science operates the Little Salt Spring underwater archaeology project. In addition to SWFAS, many local and regional government officials as well as the media and public attended.



John A. Gifford is Principal Investigator at the underwater archeological and ecological preserve. He showed us numerous carefully preserved specimens recovered from deep within the sinkhole. Above, he holds a sample of ancient wood shaped and left by early prehistoric Indians when the water level was much lower than it is today.

A major event at this Open House was the actual recovery of an ancient wooden

artifact that had been spotted at a depth of about 12.5 meters.



In the midst of a crowd of spectators, the dive team readied their gear including a white plastic container for the artifact. After being interviewed by media, they entered the sinkhole and disappeared beneath the surface for many minutes.



When the divers finally surfaced, Dr. Gifford gingerly displayed the just-recovered and very fragile artifact. It is a wooden stake believed to be about 7,000 years old.

