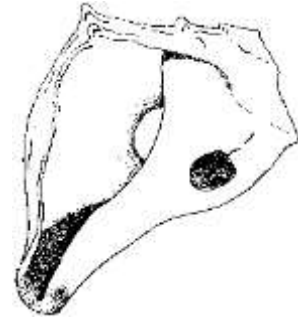


Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Newsletter



BETSY MCCARTHY, EDITOR

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NOVEMBER 2004 MEETING

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society will meet on Wednesday, November 17 at 7:00 pm at the Bonita Springs Community Center at Old 41 and Reynolds Street. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

John Beriault will report on research at the Ortona Earthwork Complex near Lake Okeechobee. Recent discoveries have brought the site worldwide recognition.

Beriault has been involved with SWFAS for most of his adult years. He founded the Society in 1980.

On December 11, 2004 members and guests will take a field trip to Ortona and tour the area with Bob Carr, the principle archaeologist.

CARL JOHNSON

Carl B. Johnson of Bonita Springs passed away on October 12, 2004. He was a former member of SWFAS. More importantly he assisted us when the Craighead Laboratory began to use a computer to preserve the thousands of numbers obtained in analyzing materials from our digs. Further more he helped us write reports on Heineken Hammock and Horse Creek.

MOUND HOUSE AWARDED \$269,500. FOR WALK-IN SHELL MOUND EXHIBIT

By Theresa Schober

The 1958 swimming pool at the Mound House will soon be the site of an archaeological exhibit that will allow visitors to walk into an earthen history book. Each layer in the ground represents a chapter of human behavior in the past.



The funds for this exhibit were awarded in October by the Florida Department of State Division of History. All adult volunteers are welcome, with training and/or re-familiarization sessions beginning in January.

Contact:

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289 Connecticut Street
Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931
Phone (239)765-0865
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NEW CALUSA HISTORY BOOK

Archaeologist William H. Marquardt, who has been directing work in Calusa archaeology since 1983, has written a history about the Calusa Indians with

photographs and colorful drawings, the book presents a vivid picture of the natural environment that sustained them.

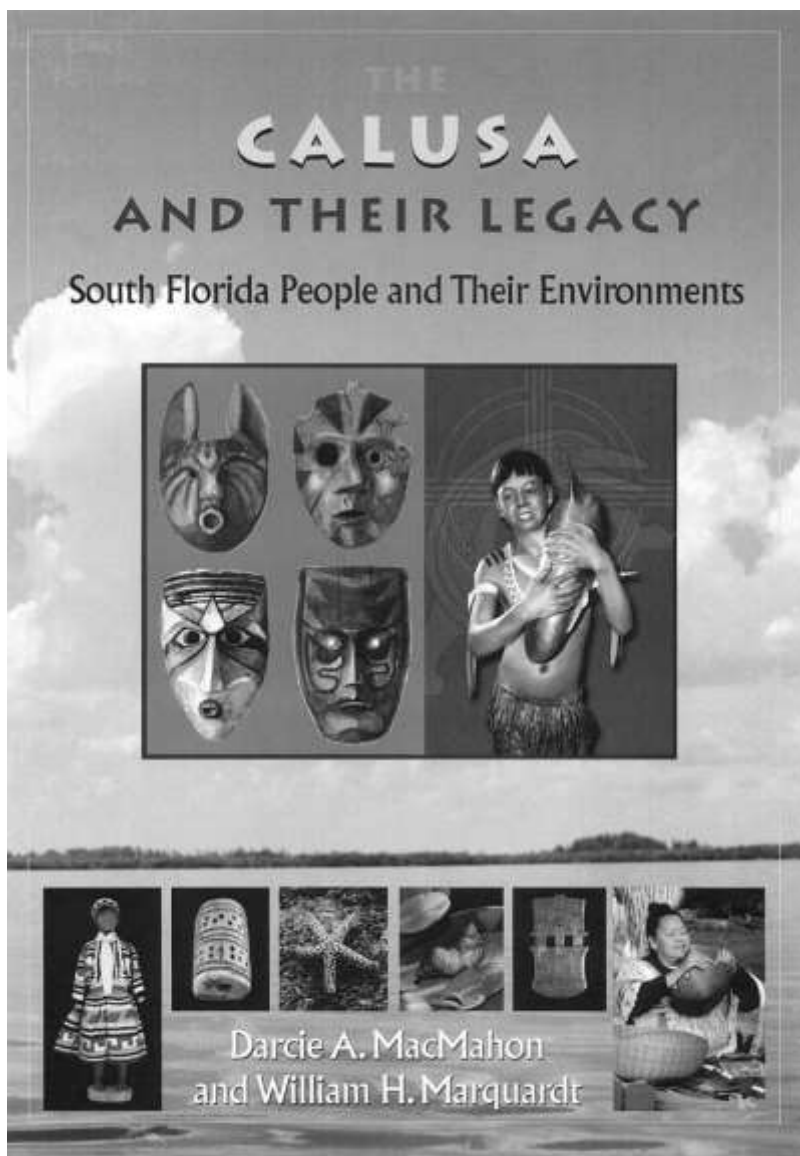
By the mid 1700s, the Calusa had disappeared entirely and this book describes the artifacts they left behind as well as the plants and animals that inhabited the landscape and the underwater world of their ecosystems. It also discusses their traditions that survive to the present day among modern fisherfolk and among Native Americans in south Florida – the Seminole and Miccosukee peoples.

It is written for a broad audience of all ages (from elementary schoolers to senior citizens) and all educational levels and it will also be popular with students and scholars of anthropology, history and ecology.

The book's dramatic and authentic illustrations of Calusa life were created by artists working at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, where a major permanent exhibition has interpreted this story since 2002.

Darcie A. MacMahon is assistant director in charge of exhibits at the Florida Museum of Natural History and coauthor of *Fort Mose: Colonial America's Black Fortress of Freedom*. William H. Marquardt is curator in archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, director of the Randell Research Center on Pine Island and the author of three books on archaeological excavations in south Florida.

On November 17 there is a lecture and book signing at the Collier County Museum in Naples at 6 pm. Contact Naomi



coauthor Darcie A. MacMahon.

The Calusa and Their legacy: South Florida People and Their Environments is the first popular book focusing on the remarkable Calusa Indians, who controlled all of south Florida when Europeans arrived in the New World. Rich with

Goren at 239-774-8476 for more information.

**SANIBEL CALUSA FEST
NOVEMBER 15, 2004**

By Karen Nelson

Come and learn about the Calusa Indians on Monday, November 15 at the Sanibel Community Association at 2173 Periwinkle Way. The free event will be held from 6:30 – 9:00 pm.

At 7:15 pm, William H. Marquardt and Darcie A. MacMahon will talk briefly about their new popular history of the Calusa, *The Calusa and Their Legacy: South Florida People and Their Environments*.

John E. Worth, assistant director of the Randell Research Center on Pine Island, will be speaking at 7:45 pm.

There will be exhibits on Calusa Artifacts and replicas, Calusa music and uses of plants.

There will be a raffle to raise money for the Randell research Center and among the raffle prizes are a Calusa alligator vase by Luc Century and a copy of Marquardt and MacMahon's book.

The Gill House at Randell Research Center, which contains the lab and office space, sustained major roof damage in Hurricane Charley and a serious mold infestation has recently been discovered. The new signs for the Calusa Heritage Trail at the Pineland site were untouched, but the site is awaiting removal of the many trees that came down during the hurricane.

For more information, call Karen Nelson at 472-5185.

CALUSA HERITAGE TRAIL

By Karen Nelson

The Calusa Heritage Trail at the Randell Research Center, opening on December 10, brings to life the Calusa Indians and their home at Pineland.

Art by Merald Clark

Pictured is the sign that tops Brown's



Mound, one of the two large mound complexes at Pineland, showing the Calusa cacique (king) and his wife dining while overlooking the Pineland site, which stretches out grandly below them. This and several other signs vividly transport modern-day viewers back into the Calusa past, inviting them to use their imagination to search for historical clues in the present day landscape.

Bill Marquardt, Karen Walker, John Worth and Darcie MacMahon formulated the trail design working with Synergy

Design Group to create the actual signs. On a walk-through of the site last July with Bill Marquardt and John Worth, Marquardt explained how they had re-assessed the existing trail, talking to groups and to teachers and fine-tuning the approach. There were earlier signs at spots that were natural talking points; many of these spots are included in the new Trail but the number of signs has doubled, and the signs are much more attractive and far more comprehensive.

As an example of the improvement, the tour route previously began at Brown's Mound and concluded at Randell, with the rest of the site sandwiched in between. Now, the tour proceeds from Brown's Mound directly to Randell, giving a much better sense of the relationship between the two large mound complexes and the canal.

Thirteen signs with illustrations by Merald Clark bring the Pineland site to life. There are early stilt homes built along the 300 AD shoreline and a scene of the villagers surveying the devastation left by the hurricane that hit Pineland around 350 AD. There is an illustration of men preparing for a ritual in the structure that once topped the low mound in the Brown's Mound complex. Scenes of daily life at different periods in the history of Pineland include people cooking, children running alongside canals full of traveling canoes. A sign about the Pine Island Canal explains how it was constructed and maintained.

An illustration of the Calusa harvesting the bounty of the estuary appropriately tops Randell mound, with its spectacular view of the Sound and Captiva Pass. Seine netters and shellfish gatherers work in the water as men pole canoes in the background. Fish leap, pelicans

swoop down and a startled ray scuttles off in a cloud of sand.

Those with knowledge of the Calusa will appreciate the elegant overall design, while the signs are a superb introduction to those just learning about the Calusa. The signs work on several levels: Visitors can quickly scan the main points or take the time to peruse sub-sections full of details relating to them of each sign.

Maps and timelines trace the growth of "Tampa" over the centuries, documenting how sea level and climate changes affected that development. Quotes from Spanish historical records and illustrations of Calusa artifacts bring the context of a museum exhibit to the immediacy of being at the actual site.

Merald Clark has been allowed to let imagination take wing here: the sign by the Smith Mound (the burial mound) has a soaring illustration of the three principal Calusa deities. They are overlooking an elaborate religious ceremony, which is taking place at the edge of the lake that originally surrounded the mound.

The tour schedule at Randell has been revised: the Calusa Heritage Trail will be open to visitors daily from 10 am – 4 pm. Guided tours are now offered on Wednesdays at 10 am instead of Saturdays, with a requested donation of \$7 for adults and \$4 for children.

The Trail was originally set for a September 10 opening, but Hurricane Charley intervened. While Charley caused some major damage to the Gill House, RRC was fortunate that the Heritage Trail signs were largely untouched, although there are a large number of downed trees still awaiting removal (the clean-up process is currently in insurance limbo).

ABOUT CRAIGHEAD LABORATORY

(This article was originally published in the January 1997 issue of this Newsletter. This updated version will be of interest to new members.)

Lab visitors frequently ask these questions:

Where did the building come from?

It was the field lab and workshop of the late Dr. Frank C. Craighead, Sr., one of the early students of the Everglades environment.

Dr. Craighead had subcontractors affiliated with Estero Woods Village build the Craighead Lab c. mid-1970s. Estero Woods Village was a retirement community, sort of "assisted living" but a little looser. They were located south of Estero on U.S. 41.

The developers granted Dr. Craighead permission to use an area off to the south near the main entry drive to place his little building. This was an exception to the association rules and recognition of Craighead's status in the world of science.

What is the relationship between it and the Collier County Museum?

It had been given to the county, which used it for office space. When it was no longer needed for that use, the museum obtained it and SWFAS provided its foundation and interior fittings. SWFAS members work there as Museum volunteers.

How long has SWFAS operated the lab there?

The lab opened for business in April, 1988.

How many people work there?

There usually are about a dozen people working at the lab in one capacity or another, though not normally at the same time. On lab work days, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, there commonly are four to eight there.

What do they do?

They receive material from salvage excavations, clean it, sort it by type, and store it until it can be analyzed. That consists of identifying the shell, bone, pottery sherds and tools by type, giving the artifacts identification numbers, and recording the characteristics of the objects recovered.

How do they identify those materials?

Lab workers have gathered specimens of many of the animals the Calusa used for food, as well as the shell and pottery commonly found in sites to which they can compare material from digs. The collection is authorized by a state permit. Items which cannot be identified are sent to experts, usually at the Florida Museum of Natural History at Gainesville, for identification. This procedure is used sparingly, since it is quite costly. For analysis of individual artifacts archaeologists who are specialists in a field usually are willing to help us.

Lab workers, through individual donations, have established a good working library of reference materials to help with identification of material from digs and also of flora and soils of site areas. SWFAS has paid for only two of the reference books the lab uses.

Doesn't that take a lot of time?

Some of the material on our shelves has been awaiting analysis for 10 years. It takes only a weekend or two to dig test

pits, but painstaking examination of every sherd and bone takes time, the form for the analysis of potsherds alone has 69 blanks. We have been working Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and are considering adding another day. For years the lab was open Saturday afternoons, but never attracted more than one or two people so that schedule was discontinued. Some individuals take work home.

How do workers learn their jobs?

Mostly by doing, with the help of experienced members. Some bring pertinent backgrounds to the work; the late John Dante, for example, had done laboratory work at the Smithsonian Institution and otoliths were his hobby. Workers enjoy the chance the lab offers to learn, and tend to specialize. Analyses are reviewed to assure accuracy. The lab has organized classes in pertinent techniques and has brought in a professional for a workshop on bone; others are being considered.

Can you use more help?

Lots more! We can add more workdays, and open afternoons as well as mornings. There's a lot of important work to be done! Call Jack Thompson at 597-2269.

What happens to the information from analysis?

It is tabulated and reviewed; results of analysis are compared with findings of those who have investigated similar sites, and conclusions arrived at. Heinen Hammock, for example, showed use as a hunting camp for 3,000 years; Mulberry Midden told us much about how interior camps were used to provision villages on the coast; Satin Leaf was a specialized tool-making work-

shop, Horse Creek Campsite was a stopping-place at a travel crossroads.

How is the information reported?

Our findings are put together into a report which is very detailed, including information both from the field and the lab; this is reviewed by our own people and by professionals. These reports can be bought by anyone interested for a few dollars. If the editors of *The Florida Anthropologist*, the quarterly journal of the Florida Anthropological Society, are interested, and so far they have been, the reports are modified to suit the journal's needs. And that gives our reports worldwide circulation.

The Collier County Museum is registered with the Florida Anthropological Society as the official repository for SWFAS.

ABOUT SWFAS

The Directorate:

President – Tom Francino

1st VP – Corbett Torrence

2nd VP – Theresa Schober

Recording Secretary – Jo Ann Grey

Treasurer – Charlie Strader

Membership – Charlie Strader

SWFAS Committees:

Field – John Beriault

Lab – Jack Thompson

Program – Dr. John Worth

Hospitality – Jeanne Sanders

Education – Dr. John Worth

Finance – Charlie Strader

University Liaison – Theresa Schober

Publicity – Victoria Rans

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

or groucho@naples.net