

Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Newsletter



BETSY MCCARTHY, EDITOR Vol. 21 No. 3

MARCH 2005

EXCITING PLANS FOR MARCH ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

By Theresa Schober

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, March 12th! Thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the Florida Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, SWFAS will be expanding its March *Calusa Fest* by hosting a mini-symposium on the Calusa Indians of southwest Florida. Key professionals from Houston to New York will be brought in for a day of debate and discussion that you're not going to want to miss.

The symposium is entitled "**Florida's 'Fierce People': Tracing the Calusa Indians from Dominance to Demise**" and will include four lectures beginning with Archaic period precursors to the Calusa through the development of political complexity and social hierarchy evidenced at the time of contact, and the resistance and ultimate abandonment of this area. Dr Jerald Milanich will serve as discussant and place the individual research presentations in the context of broader events in the prehistory and history of the Florida and the southeastern United States.

The audience will have the opportunity to participate with the speakers

through question and answer sessions. Other programs will be held on the grounds of the Collier County Museum during the day including Native American re-enactors Dick Workman, David Meo, Robin Brown, John Beriault and others.



Represented will be Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Calusa Nature Center, Calusa Land Trust, Marco Island Historical Society, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Bailey-Mathews Shell Museum on Sanibel, displays from local cultural and archaeological facilities, native plant specialists, experimental archaeologists, and the Craighead Archaeological Laboratory.

Exhibitor highlights: cordage demonstrations, making fire with a bow, using hot coals to burn out a bowl, atlatl throwing, Calusa tool replication. There will be Calusa artifacts and replicas from the Randell Research Center and from the Shell Mound Trail Tour of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Robin Brown has written two books about Calusa crafts and tool-making: - *Florida's First People* and *The Crafts of Florida's First People* – and photographs of his replicas have appeared in numerous other publications. David Meo has made the replica tools seen in many Florida museum exhibits, including those at Randell, at the Bailey Shell Museum and those used on the Shell Mound Trail Tour at "Ding" Darling. The Bailey-Mathews Shell Museum will have information on their exhibit: *The Calusa: The Original Shell People*. The Mound House will have information on a major excavation, scheduled to begin in mid-March, to create an exhibit allowing visitors to "walk into" a Calusa shell mound.

At 4 pm, there will be a reception and book signing, which is open to the public.

The symposium will begin at 11 a.m. and follow on the hour:

- *"In Search of Missing Ancestors"*, Dr. Michael Russo, Southeast Archeology Center, Tallahassee, Florida
- *"Origins of Calusa Complexity"*, Dr. Randolph Widmer, Department of Anthropology, University of Houston, Texas

- *"The Pulse of Power: Physical Expressions of Social and Political Relations"*, Corbett McP. Torrence, M.A., Co-Director, The Mound House, Town of Fort Myers Beach, Florida
- *"The Road to Cuba: Demise of the Calusa,"* Dr. John Worth, Assistant Director, Randell Research Center, Florida Museum of Natural History, Pineland, Florida
- *Discussant*, Dr. Jerald T. Milanich, Curator in Archaeology, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville, Florida

ROOKERY BAY HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FESTIVAL

On March 19, 2005, The Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center will host a History and Archaeological Festival (see Jan. Newsletter). The Schedule of events follows:

10:30-11:15 am

One Hundred Years After Cushing, The Key Marco Site Today

Bob S. Carr. Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc.

11:30-12:15 pm

Ridges, Residence and Refuse: A model of Calusa Food Production and Mound Building

Corbett McP. Torrence, Mound House, City of Ft. Myers Beach

12:25-12:40 pm

Atlatl demonstration (outdoors)

John Beriault

12:40-12:50 pm

Historical Re-enactors- Capt. Collier, Margaret MacIlvane, and Tommie Barfield tell their stories (outdoors)

1:00-1:45 pm

The Tamiami Trail: The Opening of a Frontier

Pete Brockman, Collier Seminole State Park

2:00-2:45 pm

Storytelling roundtable (Rookery Bay area natives share memories).

3:00-4:00 pm

Guided walk on historic Shell Island Road (sign up at desk)

Steve Bertone, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

HANDS-ON INDIAN CRAFT REPLICATING



On Saturday April 2 and April 9, members of SWFAS are invited to Robin Brown's place on Hickey's Creek for a day of replicating Indian Crafts. Times are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. **BRING YOUR LUNCH.**

On April 2, we will be making pots. On April 9, we will fire the pots and also have hands-on cord and rope making, basket making, and fire making. John Beriault will demonstrate the atlatl.

Come to the April 2 session only if you want to have pottery ready for firing on April 9. See the map and directions on the following page.

SWFAS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

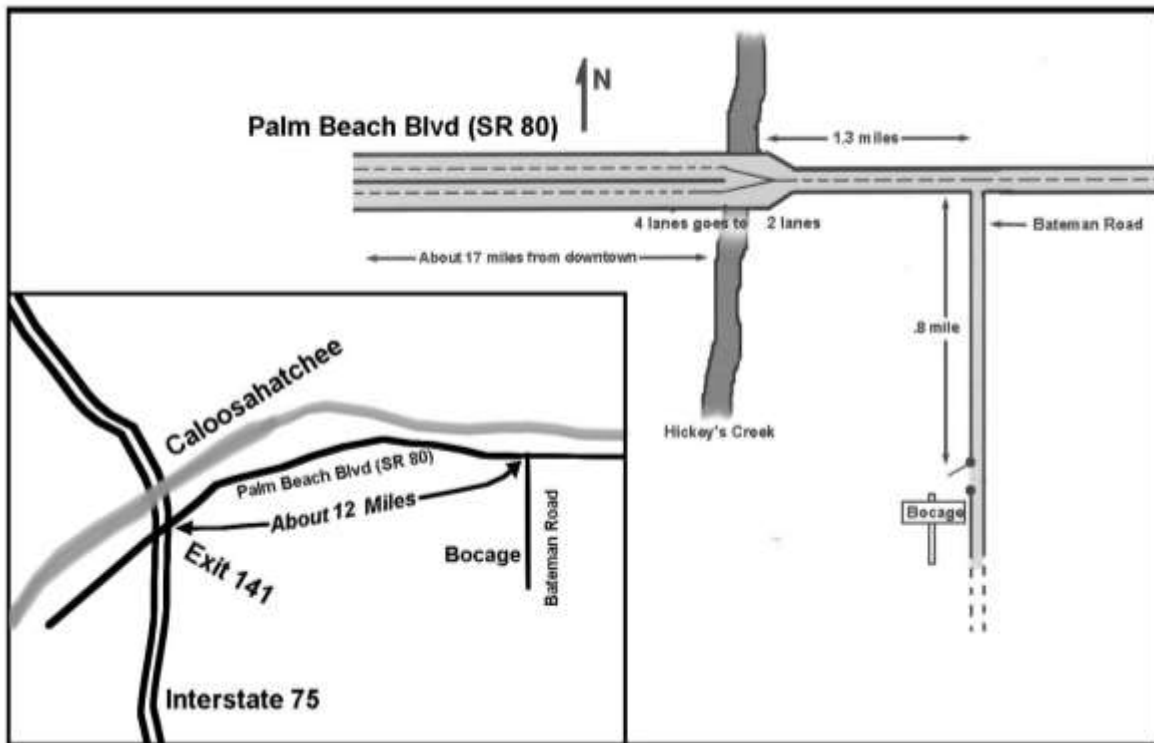
James Hammond of Naples and Iris Miranda of Cape Coral, an Edison Community College student. Glad to have you!

TRAIL OF THE LOST TRIBES 2005 FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY SPEAKER SERIES

On Saturday, April 23rd "*Caloosahatchee Landscapes: An Architectural Analysis of Coastal Mound Sites in Southwest Florida*" by Archaeologist Corbett McP. Torrence, M.A. will be given at the Mound House: A Cultural and Environmental Learning Center owned and operated by the Town of Fr Myers Beach.

For information contact:

Theresa M. Schober, Co-Director
(239) 765-0865 or
MoundHouse@fmbeach.org.



Route map to the Robin Brown cabin

Travel Directions

From Interstate 75 exit 141 (old exit 25) take Palm Beach Boulevard (State Road 80) to the east about 12 miles. Look for the point where Palm Beach Boulevard narrows to 2 lanes and crosses Hickey's Creek. Go 1.3 miles further then turn right (south) onto Bateman Road. Go south 0.8 mile. Watch on the right (west) side of road for a gate and "Bocage" sign. Turn in there and proceed to the Brown cabin.

**REMEMBER
DUES ARE DUE
AS OF JANUARY
1ST 2005!**

ABOUT SWFAS

The Directorate:

President – Corbett Torrence

1st VP – Theresa Schober

2nd VP – Tom Franchino

Recording Secretary – Jo Ann Grey

Treasurer – Charlie Strader

Membership – Charlie Strader

SWFAS Committees:

Field – John Beriault

Lab – Jack Thompson

Hospitality – Jeanne Sanders

Education – Dr. John Worth

Finance – Charlie Strader

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 news-letter: Betsy McCarthy, 909-8 Augusta Blvd., Naples, FL, 34113, or e-mail:

popismom@hotmail.com

or groucho@naples.net

Board meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month
at 7 PM, Hampton Inn, Bonita Springs
All welcome

