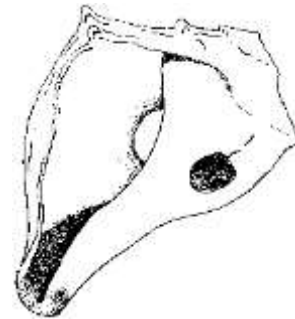


# Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Newsletter



BETSY MCCARTHY, EDITOR Vol. 21 No. 4

April 2005

## **SWFAS APRIL MEETING DATE CHANGED**

Our April meeting date will be changed to Saturday, April 23, 2005, and will be held at The Mound House on Ft Myers Beach. See directions and maps on last page.

Corbett McP. Torrence, M.A. will speak on "*Caloosahatchee Landscapes: An Architectural Analysis of Coastal Mound Sites in Southwest Florida*".

Sixteenth century Spanish accounts describe the Calusa as the most powerful chiefdom in all of south Florida, but little is known about how Calusa culture was played out on the landscape. Where were the seats of power and authority and how were they exhibited? How were their notions of architectural space similar to or different from other pre-Columbian peoples in eastern North America and when did they develop?

This presentation begins with an introduction to the theoretical principles of architecture providing cross-cultural examples of how architecture symbolizes political, social, and cosmological relationships inherent in society. The architectural design of over 50 Calusa mound sites reveal re-occurring spatial patterns. Intra-site patterns combined with archaeological data provide insights into mound construction techniques, residence patterns, and other cultural practices,



while variations between sites reflect settlement hierarchies. Through architecture the landscape of the Calusa is reconstructed.

All events are free of charge with activities beginning at 10 am. The boat trip and guided tour of Mound Key by Torrence is offered at \$40. per adult and \$25. per student.

Slide-illustrated presentations are at 11 am and 4 pm followed by optional guided boat tours to Mound key at 12 pm and 5 pm.

### NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Michael Wylde from Ft. Myers. He is a student at FGCU and volunteers at Pineland Research Center and for Earthwatch.

### DOWNLOAD YOUR NEWSLETTER IN COLOR

The last three newsletters are available on the Web for downloading.

The website can be found at <http://www.ExplorationsInc.com/swfl-archaeology.html>.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Florida Anthropology Society, at 50 plus years, is far from being the oldest history-based organization in Florida. The Florida Historical Society is observing its founding in 1856 at its annual meeting in Palm Beach May 18 –22, 2005. Its address is [www.florida-historical-soc.org](http://www.florida-historical-soc.org). Check it out!

The Florida Historical Society conducts an extensive program of awards for authors, scholars, and volunteers.

### CalusaFest 2005

Leaders in the investigations that have traced the development of the mighty Calusa chiefdom described its decay under the power of Spain's weapons and Catholic clergy, Saturday, March 12 at an Archaeology Month observance at the Collier County Museum.



Photo by Nora Belknap

### CalusaFest Exhibit

An eager audience that packed the museum's lecture hall heard Dr. Randolph Widmer, author of *Evolution of the Calusa*, outline the sociological patterns that form chiefdoms' armature and Dr. Michael Russo of the National Park Service used the patterns formed by formations of dis-

carded food shell to deduce the types of societies that had created them. Corbett McP. Torrence of the Fort Myers Beach Mound House enlarged the topic with his talk *The Pulse of Power – Physical Expressions of Social and Political Relations*, and Dr John Worth of the Randell Research Center told of the demise of the chiefdom in his *The Road To Cuba*. The varied themes were stitched together by the discussant, Dr. Jerald Milanich of the Florida Museum of Natural History.



Throughout the day re-enactors were showing visitors how the Calusa lived their daily routines with demonstrations of fire-making, basketry, the manufacture of tools and use of the atlatl, forerunner of the bow and arrow.

Exhibitors included the Mound House of Fort Myers Beach, the Randell Research Center, David Meo, Archaeologist John Beriault, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Bailey-Matthews Shell Mu-

seum, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Calusa Nature Center and the Calusa Land Trust, Marco Island Historical Society, Sanibel Historical Village and Museum and Kayak Nature Tours and the Craighead Archaeological Laboratory which held an open house through the day.



Photos by Nora Belknap

### **Craighead Laboratory Open House**

Financial support came from the Florida Humanities Council, the Endowment for the Humanities and Friends of the Collier County Museum.

### **CRAIGHEAD LAB NOTES**

By Jack Thompson

We continue to work on the Old Marco Inn material for Bob Carr. A future job may materialize.

All of us worked at the CalusaFest on March 12.

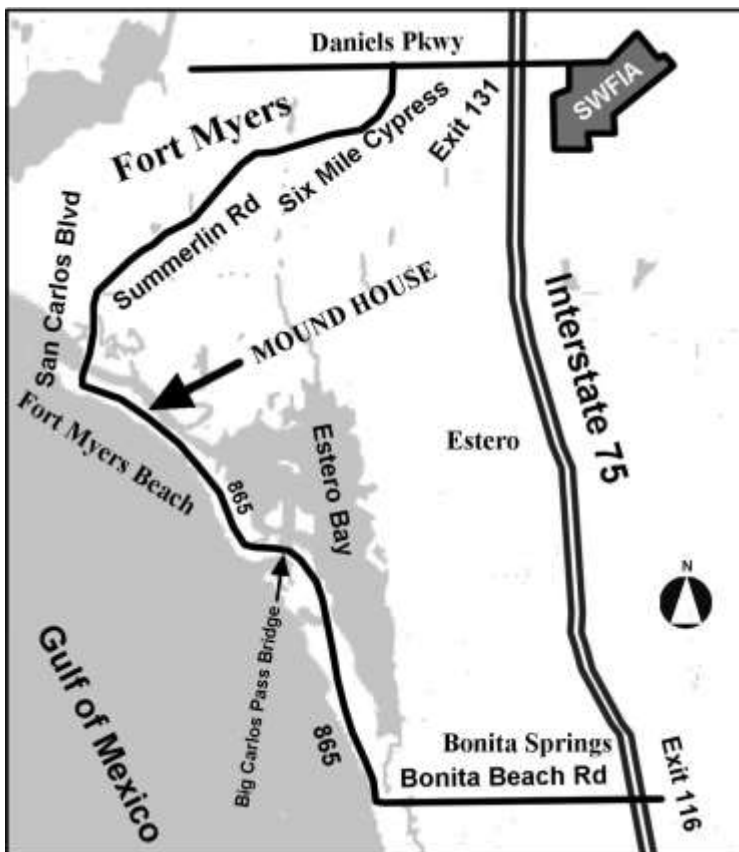
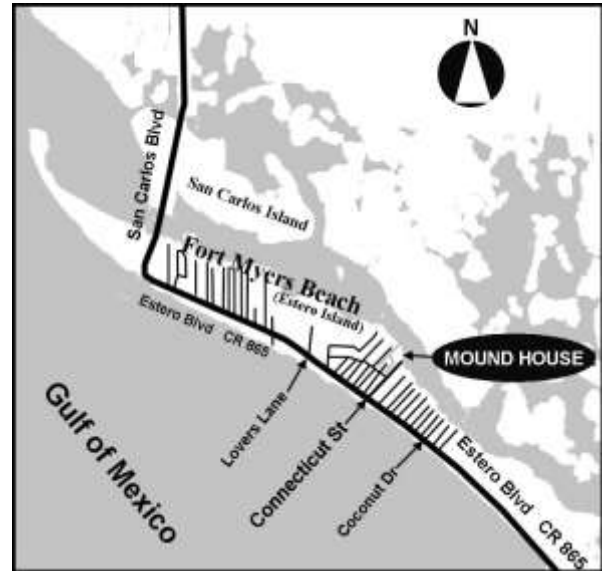
Jack Thompson took the traveling display to Rookery Bay's History and Archaeology Day on March 19.

## DIRECTIONS TO MOUND HOUSE

From the north take I-75 exit 131, Daniels Parkway West. Follow signs for Fort Myers Beach along Daniels Parkway, Six Mile Cypress, Summerlin Road, and San Carlos Boulevard to Estero Boulevard in Fort Myers Beach. Continue on Estero Boulevard 1.6 miles southeast, to Connecticut Street. Turn left and see "At Connecticut Street" below.

From Naples and points south, take I-75 to exit 116 and follow Bonita Beach Road (CR 865) 5.8 miles to the beach. Continue on 865 northwest along the beach for 10.4 miles to Connecticut Street. Turn right 4.2 miles past Big Carlos Pass bridge.

**At Connecticut Street**, go all the way to the Bay end. The Mound House gate is the last exit before the dead end at the Bay.



## ABOUT SWFAS

The Directorate:

President – Corbett Torrence

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Theresa Schober

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 newsletter: Betsy McCarthy, 909-8 Augusta Blvd., Naples, FL, 34113, or e-mail:

[popismom@hotmail.com](mailto:popismom@hotmail.com)

or [groucho@naples.net](mailto:groucho@naples.net)

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