



Southwest Florida
Archaeological
Society Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 3

March 2006

MARCH SWFAS MEETING

...is canceled. Instead, we suggest SWFAS members attend the Southwest Florida History & Archeology Festival described below.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA HISTORY & ARCHEOLOGY FESTIVAL

In honor of Florida Archaeology Month, the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, together with the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, is hosting the Southwest Florida History and Archeology Festival on Saturday, March 25. The second annual festival will include presentations by regional archaeologists and other experts, a guided tour of an ancient shell mound, and a variety of hands-on activities for kids of all ages. The event will also feature the grand opening of historical exhibits as a permanent part of the Environmental Learning Center.

If you haven't seen this beautiful new facility, it's worth the trip.



Admission to the Festival is \$5 for adults and free for members and kids 12 and under.

The program was still in development at press time. Very tentative plans are that Darcie MacMahon and Bill Marquardt, Florida Museum of Natural History, will lecture on "The Estuary and Its Human Legacy at Horr's Island". If things work out, Bob Carr with the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy will be discussing his current project at Margood. John Beriault has agreed

to give his atlatl demonstration, and we may have a Chautauqua presentation featuring historic portrayals by members of the Marco Island Historical Society. Our event also includes booths and other activities on our grounds, as well as a guided walk on the shell mound at Shell Island Road. The festival is on:

March 25, 2006
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Rookery Bay Environmental
Learning Center
300 Tower Road
Naples, FL 34113

See travel instructions on the back page of this newsletter. For more information please call 239-417-6310 ext. 401 or visit www.rookerybay.org

OLDE FLORIDA FESTIVAL

The Collier County Museum will hold the Olde Florida Festival on March 18 and 19 from 10AM to 4PM.

In previous years the many costumed portrayals of peoples past have highlighted this festival. Cannons and drums boom, telegraphs click, conch horns bray and dancers twirl. The museum has new outdoor structures this year to support the many activities and good food.

Craighead Laboratory will be open and working on material collected at the recent Margood excavation at Goodland. (See following.)

If you have artifacts that need identification, come on down. Or just visit the lab.

NEW LAB COMPUTER

Our trusty PC at Craighead Laboratory is 90 in computer years and overdue to retire. Slow and small, it was becoming a drag on operations, with much work having to be taken to lab rat homes to do on more modern machines. Jan Gooding came to our rescue with a large donation earmarked for a new lab computer.

The new tool has arrived and we are slowly moving all operations onto it. It is an HP Compaq Presario with a nine times faster CPU, 512 MB main memory, 160 GB hard drive, DVD burner, and Windows XP with Small Business Office software.

The most important job of the lab computer is archaeological data entry and report generation. Spreadsheets and graphs are the main results. However, the computer has myriad other functions from letter writing to lab data form creation and printing using Word. Inventory is another big job, starting with incoming archaeological material itself, through its locations in storage shelves, drawers and warehouses to an index of our extensive archaeology reference library.

But the star feature of the new facility is the gorgeous 17" LCD flat panel monitor, replacing the (now seeming) tiny 13" CRT monitor on the old box.



The new monitor is much higher definition and can legibly display three times as much data. Now we can see two documents side by side and several rats can view it at once.

ANOTHER GOODLAND DIG

On January 17 through 25, 2006, Craighead Laboratory volunteers took part in another archaeological dig in Goodland on Marco Island, FL. Robert S. Carr of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy arranged the dig on the site where the future Margood museum is planned and invited SWFAS to participate. This became a media event when video crews and newspaper reporters appeared to film activities and interview workers.

John Beriault was the site 8CR45 supervisor for AHC, along with several other AHC employees. Since previous extensive bulldozer activity at Goodland has destroyed most meaningful depth context, the dig was executed with a backhoe that dug long trenches over the several-acre site, piling the excavated material beside them. Thus the provenience data consists entirely of position along the trench. We will be able to show linear distributions of the materials collected, which may guide future test pits looking for concentrations of artifacts.

SWFAS Lab Rats Jean Belknap, Liz Clement, Jan Gooding and Betsy McCarthy were all present most digging days and bagged most of the material. Jean's daughter Nora Nydegger and a local woman from Goodland were also very active.



Lab Rat Jean Belknap reported the following:

Goodland has not changed much since the first fisherman inhabitants.

It was a "fun dig", no swamp to wade through or vegetation to trip over. Easy digging through loose material from the backhoe.

It's a thrill to hold an artifact in your hand that was last held by a person over a thousand years ago; you can almost feel their spirit.

We each put our small pieces together to help with the "big picture" of the long ago people of Goodland.

The Lab Rats were all very enthusiastic about this adventure into down and dirty archaeology. With our own fingers we got to lift out the things left in black midden soil many centuries ago, examine them for signs of human use as we had learned from Art Lee in the lab and bag those with the telltale markings. Liz was so delighted she broke into poetry:

Rat Thoughts

By Liz Clement

Each morning at dawning
We readied for the dig.
Headed over to Goodland,
Got filthy as a pig.

We staked out our claim,
In oyster shells we sat.
What treasures would be found?
Perhaps, a Goodland Cat?

Some days were cold days,
Some days were hot.
Often we found much,
Sometimes we did not.

We dug and we shoveled,
We screened and gave looks,
Found shell tools and pottery
To ID from our books.

Sorting through ancient dirt,
Discovering the past,
Jean, Liz, Jan and Betsy
Were happy at last.



We found abraders for Art
Of star coral – and used!
For Betsy some net weights
She'll love – or are we confused!?


Last touched by humans
Over 1000 years ago;
It was a privilege to find them;
- To learn and to know.



Jack H came to photo,
Jack T to observe,
Both gave us support
Which we admit we deserve.

In the late afternoon
When others had gone,
Jean and Liz were treated
To creative Song.

Over the Calusa mound
Came Beriault's voice
Singing the verses
Of unusual choice.

 If I found a hammer
I'd dance a jig -
I see love between the volunteers
All over this dig. 

These boots are made for digging
And climbing this ancient mound.
These eyes were made for seeing
The artifacts to be found. 

 Fish bones are a dancing
In our dreams at night.
Bags full of pot sherds
Are a beautiful sight. 

So our thanks to John
For inviting us rats from the lab
Who hope there'll be more digs,
For which we'll be glad.

(‘Cause a great time (by all) was had.)



GEOLOGY RULES

By Jack Harvey

This Month – Waltzing Planets

Ice ages have much to do with shaping the surface of our planet, and South Florida is no exception, even though it has never been ice covered. This month, we'll try to understand why ice ages happen. First of all, a simple rule of nature defines

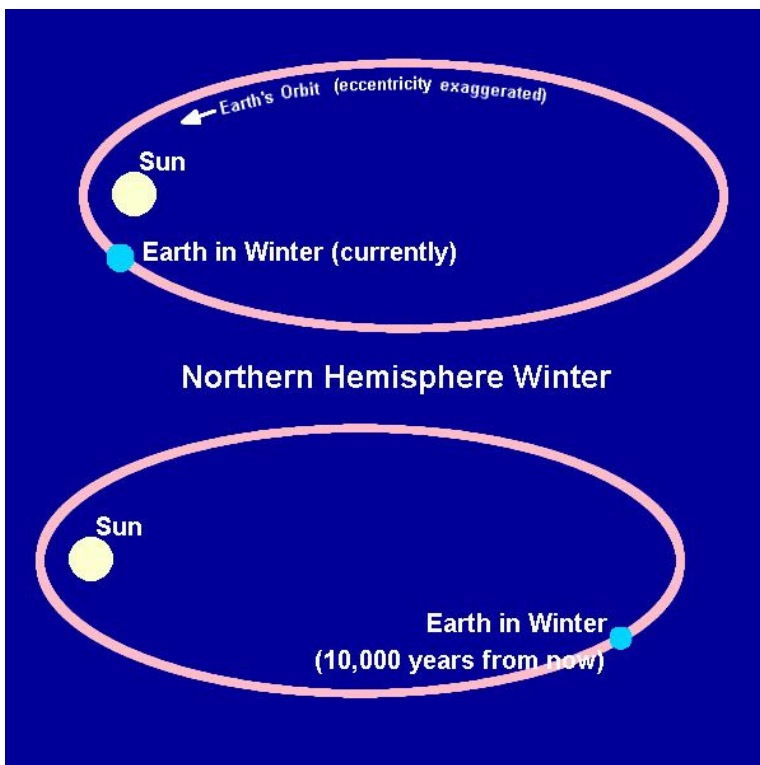
when and where ice fields and glaciers occur:

Ice Age Rule: Ice fields and glaciers form when more snow falls in the winter than can melt in the summer.

Each year, the snow piles higher and over decades and centuries it turns to ice, growing ever thicker. That's it. That's all there is to it.

Note the rule has two horns: Amount of winter snowfall and amount of summer snowmelt. Many things affect those two with the devil in the details. And the devil's name is weather. Weather controls the winter snowfall and how much of it melts in summer.

Why is it warmer in summer than in winter? At the present time, the sun is actually slightly closer in the **northern hemisphere** winter, but the main reason is that the earth is tilted so that during summer, the sun shines longer each day and more directly down on lands closer to the pole. This effect is larger than the distance change caused by the earth's slightly elliptical orbit.



But the close approach during our northern winter isn't locked to the seasons. In about 10,000 years, the most distant and coldest part of the orbit will occur during the northern hemisphere winter.

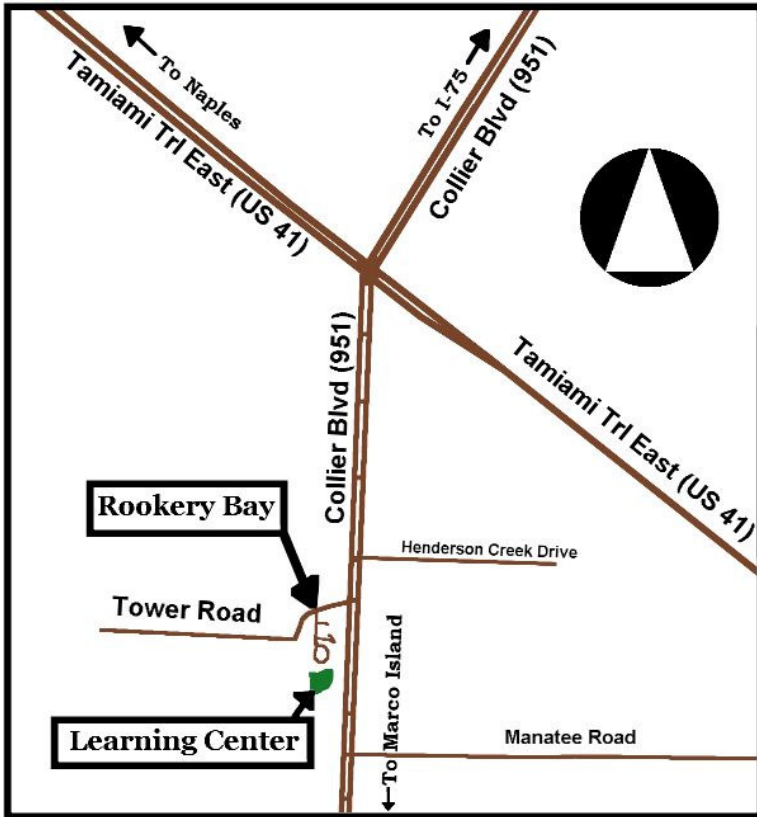
As the earth and its partner moon waltz around the solar system ballroom, their exact dance path and attitude varies slightly over periods of tens and hundreds of thousands of years. Simple orbital dynamics and other dancers such as the giant planets Jupiter and Saturn cause the changes.

The waltz changes plus other variables such as heat output of the sun and greenhouse gases in our atmosphere result in cycles of ice ages going back not just ten of thousands of years, but millions of years. And don't forget the grand tectonic waltz of the continents, dancing to and from the equatorial tropics. Ice ages come in sizes, both duration and depth. Adding another layer of confusion, the great ocean currents of the world have trigger points where they suddenly change course so that a warming earth can paradoxically fall quickly into an ice age. As I said, the devil is in the details.

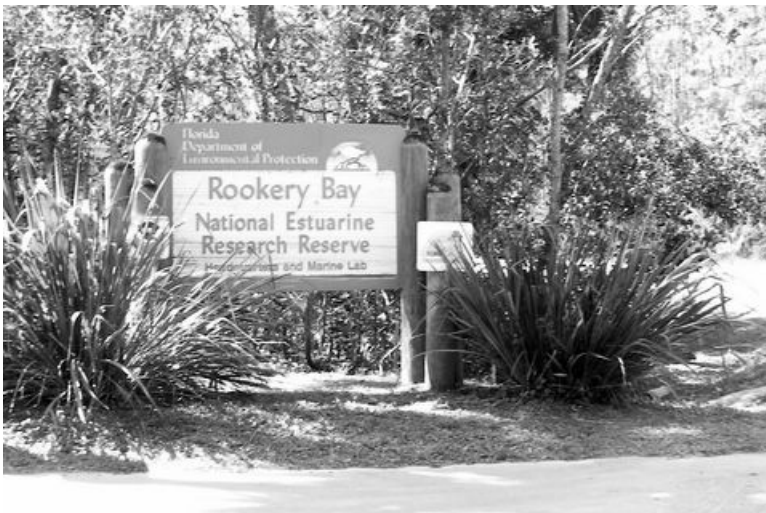
South Florida is young land and hasn't seen thousands of ice ages. Those that have happened during its life affected the way its calcite and dolomite layers were deposited, *since these occur only under seawater*. Glaciers and ice fields determine the sea level and we have dry land now only because it was once at a somewhat higher level..

How sea depth has affected South Florida will be our topic next time.

TRAVEL TO ROOKERY BAY LEARNING CENTER



From I-75 exit 101 take Collier Boulevard (C.R. 951) south six miles. Cross East Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) and continue heading south 0.7 miles. Turn right on Tower Road at Comcast Cable. Take the first left into the Rookery Bay Parking Lot.



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.

Send news articles to: jakharve@earthlink.net

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

Dues are Due for 2006!

If you joined on or after September 1,
 2005, you are good until January 2007.

Please see **ABOUT SWFAS** for dues
 and mailing address.