Southwest Florida Archaeological Society Newsletter

Vol. 22 No. 8 August 2006

At the next SWFAS meeting:

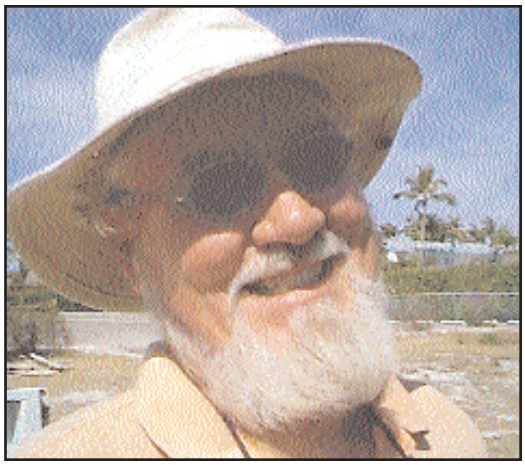
Beriault to Speak of MarGood Work

John G. Beriault will speak on Goodland Point and the Margood Lodge: "Continuing History from Prehistory in the Ten Thousand Islands." The talk will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Bonita Springs Community Center in downtown Bonita Springs, Wednesday, August 16.

The presentation will talk about recent archaeological work performed at the MarGood Lodge, a historic resort and tourist attraction. This work revealed part of the shell midden substrate of the 70-acre site of Goodland Point, which was inhabited for over 2,000 years.

Beriault will also detail the interesting lives of the original owners of MarGood, "Reckless" Rex and "Reckless" Ruby Johnson, former daredevil aerial acrobats and balloonists.

Beriault is a lifelong resident of Southwest Florida, and he is one of the founders and the first president of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. He has received the Craighead Award from SWFAS and the Lazarus Award from the Florida Anthropological Society, as well as having served a term as the FAS president. He is currently working as a contract archaeologist and is the West Coast representative for his firm, the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy of Davie, Florida.



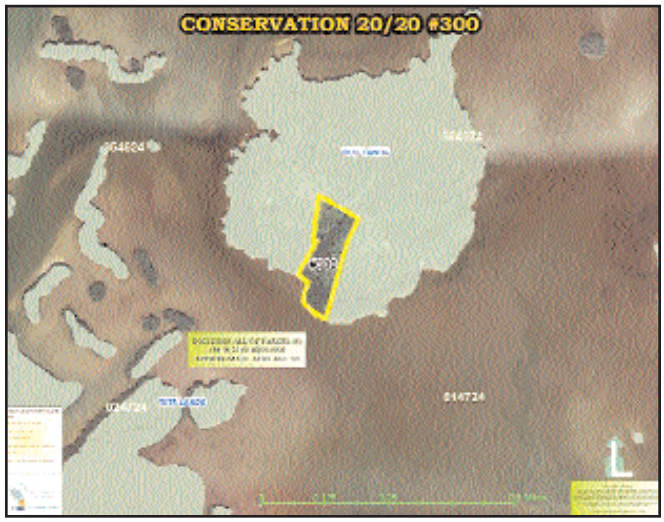
John Beriault at the Olde Marco Inn project, at the site of Key Marco.

Lee County's Conservation Lands Increase to 14% over Last 10 Years

by Theresa Schober

Lynda Riley joined SWFAS in July to detail the origin and success of Lee County's Conservation 20/20 Program. The program was initiated in 1996 through a grassroots effort that resulted in a referendum to create funding for the purchase of land for conservation purposes. At the time, only 8% of Lee County was conservation land compared to an average of 28% across counties in Florida. According to Riley, this disparity was primarily due to the lack of federal land ownership in Lee County compared to our southern neighbors in Collier where close to 40% of land is conserved as part of the Everglades. With the referendum passing in every Lee County precinct, the fund was set at 50 cents per $1,000 in property value (or 0.5 mils) and initially brought in approximately $10 million per year that was earmarked for acquisition (90%) and a trust fund (10%) where the interest gained is used to restore and manage lands.

The program set goals to purchase lands that would aid in sustaining native plant and animal populations, replenishing drinking water, provide flood protection, improve water quality, and provide passive outdoor recreation. To date, almost $155 million has purchased close to 12,000 acres including 50% wetlands and 50% uplands. Of this amount, $41 million that has been set



The 10-acre private parcel on Mound Key

See CONSERVATION, page 2

CONSERVATION, from page 1

aside for the Babcock Ranch purchase set to close this July while the remaining $84 million has resulted in 63 land purchases. Lee County can now boast 14% land in conservation through the efforts of the Conservation / program, combined with other local organizations such as the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation and the Calusa Land Trust (see article below) and state agencies such as Florida Forever with which the Mound House on Fort Myers Beach was acquired.

The current budget of the Conservation 20/20 program has grown to approximately $30 million per year. Unfortunately, with significant increases in land values, this has resulted in a decrease in quantity of land purchased according to Riley.

For example, the remaining 10 acres on Mound Key was offered to the program for $15 million by the Magee family, who have owned the property since the late 1800s. In order to negotiate a selling price, Conservation 20/20 must follow an appraisal process governed by state law. While it is based on the development value of the property, comparable properties must be identified to establish a value — and finding other island parcels surrounded by park service lands will not be easy. Once two private-sector appraisals are generated, the program can offer up to the appraised value so as not to inflate the market value for these kinds of lands. However, price negotiations include many elements, including the cost to develop the parcel such as archaeological mitigation, water storage, providing electricity to the island, as well as construction costs, which are all subtracted from the potential selling price of the developed land. Interestingly, negotiations and the appraised value remain out of the domain of the Sunshine Law until a price is agreed upon and remain confidential if no agreement is reached.

Photo by Charlie Loucks

Lynda Riley of Conservation 20/20 answering questions at the July SWFAS meeting, with a sign-holding assist from Theresa Schober.

While Conservation 20/20 has focused on environmentally sensitive lands, the advisory committee for the program recently recommended that archaeological resources be included in the definition of environmental sensitivity due to their potential to provide information about past environments and to track native species. This recommendation will appear before the Board of County Commissioners on August 1 and, if approved, has tremendous potential to assist in the identification and conservation of remaining archaeological resources in Lee County.

Randell Center Will Host New Public Archaeologist

The Randell Research Center is pleased to announce the hiring of Kara Bridgman Sweeney as its new Public Archaeologist. Her position is funded by the Florida Public Archaeology network (FPAN), a new state program aimed at promoting the conservation, study, and public understanding of Florida's archaeology through regional centers. The Randell Research Center will host one of the eight FPAN regional centers, serving Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades, and Hendry counties.

Kara has worked as an archaeologist in public, private, and academic sectors for the past twelve years. She has worked throughout the southeastern United States and also has done some studies abroad in Ireland and Ethiopia. She is especially interested in studying people — past and present — who can meet their daily needs without reliance on agriculture, and in the ways they design and organize their tools.

In 2001, Kara began her Ph.D. coursework at the University of Florida under the direction of Dr. Ken Sassaman. Her dissertation research is focused on studying patterns of Early Archaic stone tool variation throughout the Southeast. During her time at the university, she has assisted Dr. Sassaman's work at several Archaic period sites in South Carolina and Georgia. Most recently, Kara has served as a lecturer at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

Kara Bridgman Sweeney

The Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island

An aerial view of the St. Jude Trail from the road (at top) to the observation deck on St. James Creek

by Bud House

The Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island, Inc. (CLT) celebrated its 30th anniversary at the annual meeting in January 2006.

The CLT was established in 1976 to allow for the preservation of thirty-some acres on Calusa Island. There were four land owners, Fred and Diane Johnson, Bill Spikowski, and Alison Ackerman, who wanted these mangrove acres removed from taxation and preserved. In 1989 Rick Moore called for a meeting to establish a Land Trust for Pine Island. At the meeting he was informed that the CLT was already in place and that it would be better to consolidate with the CLT than to go to the expense of starting another land trust. The consolidation took place and Rick was elected President of the CLT. At the 1990 Annual Meeting Rick disclosed that he had signed a contract to purchase 325 acres, for $20,000, in northeast Pine Island. There would be three payments, one each at six month intervals, until the preserve would be paid for. An island wide campaign was initiated using the slogan "BUY AN ACRE FOR AN EAGLE." All payment dates were reached and the BIG JIM CREEK Nature Preserve was established. The membership then stood at 156.

The mission of the CLT is to purchase, accept donations, or receive conservation easements to acquire land to protect the natural diversity and beauty of Pine Island and its immediate area. To accomplish this objective, a land conservation trust is a grassroots, private, non-profit, non-governmental, tax-exempt, charitable organization dedicated to nature conservancy. The business of the CLT is conducted by the 15-member Board of Directors. These procedures are spelled out in the Articles of Incorporation which are accessible at www.calusa-landtrust.org. In addition, the website contains newsletters, financial reports, and other interesting facts about the CLT. Pictures and a isting of our preserved lands are also available.

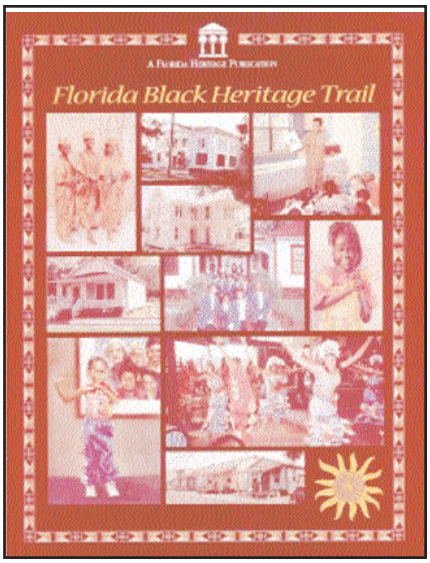
St. Jude Trailhead after Brazilian pepper was removed.

Since 1991, additional land has been obtained, some with the joint ownership of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and some through partnership with the Lee County 20/20 Program. As the CLT is a volunteer organization, work parties are established the first Monday of the month, from October through April to provide necessary site maintenance.

Course in early Florida History to be offered this fall at FGCU

Reverend James Lake of the Wesley Methodist Church is teaching a course on early Florida history at FGCU on Fridays from 12:30 to 3:15 p.m., from August 25th through December 8th. Tuition for the course is $355.98. For more information on this or other course offerings, contact the Office of Admissions at 590-7878.

Trail of the Lost Tribes awarded $80,000 grant to produce *Native American Heritage Trail* booklet



B*y Theresa Schober*

The Trail of the Lost Tribes is set to begin the exciting project of producing a *Native American Heritage Trail* booklet — the next in a set of booklets funded through the Division of Historical Resources that includes African American, Cuban, Jewish, World War II, and Women's Heritage trails.

In keeping with the mission of the Trail of the Lost Tribes — to promote awareness and responsible visitation of Florida's archaeological resources — the *Native American Heritage Trail* booklet will highlight managed archaeological sites and museums that provide interpretive materials on Florida's cultural past. The booklet will also provide an overview of Florida prehistory and sidebars on archaeological and historical topics of interest to the general public.

The booklet will be authored by Brenda Swann, formerly of the Division of Historical Resources and now a member of the Trail of the Lost Tribes board. The *Native American Heritage Trail* booklet will be available by December 2007.

Theresa Schober is Director of the Mound House on Fort Myers Beach and is the Vice President of the Trail of the Lost Tribes, Inc.

Otter Mound Preserve to Open by February 2007

B*y Melissa Hennig*

A second day of planting at Otter Mound Preserve added substantial ground cover to the 170 shrubs and trees planted in June as part of a canopy restoration project to repair damage from Hurricane Wilma.

Approximately 25 volunteers from SWFAS, the Marco Island Historical Society, the Marco Island Calusa Garden Club, the Naples Chapter of the Native Plant Society and the Boy Scouts have assisted with the planting under the supervision of local archaeologist John Beriault.

As indicated in the July SWFAS newsletter, all the dirt removed for planting purposes was screened. Artifacts were catalogued and diagnostic materials collected. Additional assistance was provided for the second phase of planting by the Collier County Sheriff's Weekend Community Service Crew.

The preserve is scheduled to open to the public by early 2007, with a small parking area and a sidewalk in front of the shell terracing along Addison Court. A grant from the Florida Humanities Council for an interpretive trail will support installation of three large interpretive signs set along a mulched trail.

County road workers get interested in screening artifacts

Melissa Hennig is an Environmental Specialist with the Collier County Environmental Services Department.

Photos by Betsy Perdichizzi

Above: Tim Lewis and his dad found treasures and trash. Right: Taking a tour of the site. The outhouse was turned over in Hurricane Wilma, but not destroyed.

Lab Report

By Jack Thompson

We have completed the analysis of material collected at the Margood site in Goodland. John Beriault will discuss this at the August meeting. He will prepare his AHC report and the boxes will be stored by Collier County for display in about five years.

In June and July we assisted at Otter Mound on Marco Island, when native flora was planted to repair damage by Wilma. This week, we began to check the artifacts collected.

Art Lee and Walt Buschelman visited to offer help in writing up the Goodland Point material collected several years ago before the site was destroyed by construction of a house.

How I discovered Archaeology Or Walks with My Old Man

By John G. Beriault

Just about everyone reading the newsletter has stumbled onto archaeology in his or her own way. Sometimes it starts with the finding of an intriguing artifact or the visit to a museum. Maybe a TV special or even seeing "Indiana Jones" is responsible.

My interest began when I was three years old and my father gave me a milk-bottle shaped stone plummet he found in Goodland in the late 1940s. My father recalled going to Goodland Point in 1948 in a small army-surplus dump truck and shoveling in by hand midden shell, which was then used as the material of choice for road underlayment. He recalled the mosquitoes being so numerous and fierce that he could only work at 10-15 minute intervals and then had to sit in the cab of the truck for 5 minutes to allow them to disperse somewhat so he could go back to shoveling shell. During that time he found the plummet, and it was so different he kept it.

My father would frequently take me on walks around our twenty acres starting from the time I was a baby and needed to be carried most of the way on his shoulders. We would sing songs like "Hello, Joe, What do you know? Just got back from a Rodeo, Saw a dance, took a Chance. Well, I don't know, Hello Joe." These were old vaudeville songs my father learned by sneaking into shows where kids generally weren't invited.

The more I could walk, the longer the trips became. We picked huckleberries, noted unusual wildlife, felt the sun, wind, and sometimes the rain. When I was five, my mother gently suggested my father take me even further afield, "so I could learn something."

My father had heard about an old shell mound on a backbay near Doctor's Pass, so one day we went walking in that direction to see if we could find it. My father carried a shovel, but he always did on these walks, as you could investigate something from a safe distance with it — kill a rattlesnake, or, once or twice, help dig out some car whose driver had got it stuck in the sugar sand trails.

We walked west maybe a half-mile, a long way for me. Through sand pine and oak scrub, then into climax slash pine flatwoods with a dense understory of saw palmettos. We were traveling an old rutted woods road heading toward the distant, dark green wall of mangroves fronting Inner Doctor's Pass. I remember a large indigo snake crawled across the trail in front of us, and for a very brief moment it spanned the road continuously!

Finally we came out in a bare clearing at the interface of the uplands with the mangroves. Dead snags from salt-blasted buttonwood and black mangrove stuck up in strange shapes like a Zen garden. I would learn this was a saltern or salina area where periodic high tides had deposited so much salt glittering on the gray muck that only cord grasses and black rush would grow.

The old trail became a corduroy road through the mangroves. Large potholes and ruts filled with brown tannin-stained water smelling of rotten eggs straddled gaps in the cut logs. There were signs people had gotten stuck in here not too long ago, not a good place to bring even a four-wheel drive vehicle. The tide was out, otherwise we would have waded in up to our ankles or deeper.

Up ahead through the mangroves, we could see higher ground and I felt for the very first time the feeling of awe and mystery, coming on to a place where humans had lived one thousand years or more ago. There were shell mounds, partially dug away, rising on all sides. They were covered in a dense coppiced growth of stoppers or Eugenias (as I would later learn). Large gumbo-limbos, silver-barked mastics and jamaica dogwoods towered above the other luxuriant hammock plants. A skunky smell, acrid, but not unpleasant, filled the air, and I would later find out this smell came from a plant — the white stoppers.

We crossed the site and stood looking out on a narrow channel, a winding stream cutting through the tall surrounding mangroves. We would later find this channel connected Inner and Outer Doctor's Bay, and had quite a volume of water moving through when the tide was running. I would later fish there and hear about the skeleton of a fellow, missing five years, that had been found not too far away.

It was evident even from this first visit that much of the site had been dug away years ago for road fill. My father took his shovel and scratched around a bit, showing me several sherds of pottery, one or two of which had ticking or incised decorations. The intensely rich black dirt they came from had a rich, sweet, decadent smell like no other I ever smelled. Nothing smells like a South Florida "black dirt" midden, a smell I will forever remember from that first time.

We didn't stay long, and I took a half-dozen of the most interesting sherds back with me. I showed my mother and told her how excited I was by what I had seen on that trip. For quite a while the sherds still smelled of the mysterious midden in which they had lain centuries before Columbus.

I will always remember that time, with my father, and how I stumbled across archaeology.

Note on the Otter Mound planting

By Karen Nelson

I had heard about Calusa sites where huge lightning whelks faced the sides of mounds — and I'd seen the fanciful house at Demere Key from a boat — but before spending the morning of July 15 at Otter Mound, I had never seen a terraced mound with the shells left in situ.

John Beriault explained how the ridges at the Gulf side of the site radiated out from a central area, and the areas between the mounded spokes were probably small canals.

The stepping of the terraces as well as the shell facings were both the work of the later settlers, not the Calusa, but that, too, is part of the lost history of this rapidly changing place we call Florida.

Otter Mound is a beautiful site. When it opens to the public in February 2007, I'd recommend a visit.

Florida History 101: 1513-1960

By Betsy Perdichizzi

For nearly five centuries, the shape of the American continent was known in Spain and reproduced on Spanish maps.

The earliest Spanish explorer, Ponce de Leon, reached the Florida coast in 1513. Making landfall on Easter Sunday, he called the new land Florida, the Spanish name for Easter: "Pascua Florida."

However, attempts by Spain to settle the region in 1521 were foiled by the native Indians.

In 1564, French Huguenots attempted a colony on the south bank of the St. John's. It was said to have an encouraging beginning, but ended in disaster in a couple of years.

In 1763, Florida was traded to Britain for Havana in the treaty that ended the Seven Year Wars, called the Peace Treaty of Paris.

That same year, the King of England issued a proclamation dividing Florida into two sections - East Florida and West Florida. He used the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers as boundary lines.

Twenty years later, in a treaty that ended the Revolutionary War, Florida was returned to Spain

The young United States of America took West Florida from Spain by 1812. After many efforts, the United States finally succeeded in gaining the rest of Florida in 1819 by promising to pay indemnities to its citizens who had been damaged in the war by Spain.

By 1821, only about 8,000 whites lived in Florida, most of them were Spanish with some Anglo Saxons mixed in. British, Scottish, and Irish from Cumberland, Maryland and the Shenandoah, Virginia valleys had migrated and settled in the southern states. They were the "Okies" of 18th Century. These families sifted across the northern Florida border to build the cities of Jacksonville in 1822, Quincy in 1825, Monticello in 1828, Mariana and Apalachicola in 1829 and St Joseph in 1836.

"Many wealthy people established their homes in Florida, but their bad treatment of the Indians caused the Seminole War during 1835 to 1842," according to *The Handy Book for Genealogists.*

Emigrants from Greece and the Dodecanese Islands moved to Florida in 1820 and established the sponge diving industry near Tarpon Springs.

Florida became a territory on March 30, 1822 and achieved statehood on March 3, 1845. Florida was the 27th state to join the Union. County records date from 1822.

The railroad, built in 1831 from Tallahassee to St. Mark's, brought people in from the Georgia, Alabama, North and South Carolina areas. During the 1840s, the state's population more than doubled.

Records from the 1860s show the white population to have increased to 78,000, with more than 77 large plantations of more than 1,000 acres each.

"In 1912, a large group of Lutheran Slovaks moved from Cleveland, Ohio onto a large tract of land they had purchased in Seminole County, where they established a communal agricultural and poultry business." Seminole County is the small county located above Orange County.

Our county was established in 1822 and was named Saint John's. It was one of two original counties, with the county seat in St. Augustine. The boundaries were redrawn in 1823 and the county was named Monroe with Key West as the county seat.

In 1887, Lee was carved out of Monroe with Fort Myers named the county seat. In 1923, Collier County was carved out of Lee. Everglades City was named the county seat until the hurricane of 1960, after which the county seat was moved to Naples.

The W. T. Collier family is credited for being the first white settler of Marco Island landing in 1870.

- *The Handy Book for Genealogists,* by Everton Publishers of Logan, Utah, pages 49 to 55.

- *Courtesy of* Marco Island Sun Times

Geology Rules: Florida's Basement

By Jack Harvey

Archaeologists are the starving artists of science. Everyone admires the work but nobody wants to pay for it. I don't want to belittle the importance of what archaeology students learn in classes and graduate research, but I suspect an equally valuable part of their training is how to engineer grants, learned by osmosis from their thesis advisors and other senior archaeologists.

Geologists, on the other hand, can hold the keys to great wealth. There's gold in them thar hills and guides who can help find it are in high demand. The science of geology probably grew out of mining for valuable ores thousands of years ago.

Back in September 2005 in the column, "Living Stones," I said, "But the real mystery is why there is no hard stone in South Florida. It is not simply rare; it just doesn't exist. Zero, zip, nada."

I lied.

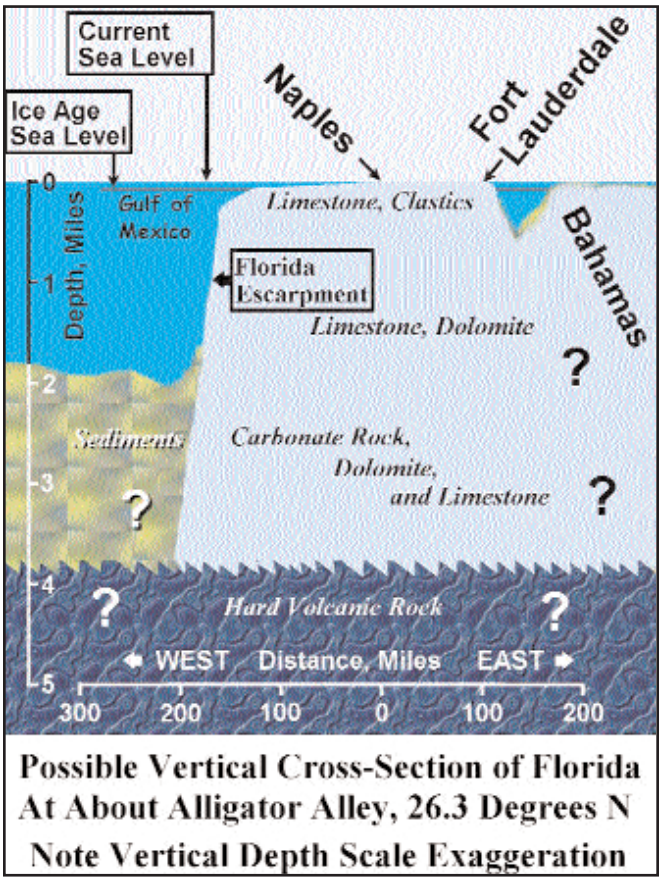
Just four miles from where we meet each month in Bonita Springs is a limitless supply of hard volcanic stone from which many kinds of tools could be made and the Calusa never found it. The catch is that those four miles are straight down. How do we know there is volcanic stone down there? Oil wells.

Wells drilled several miles into the earth can cost tens of millions of dollars. Only giant corporations can afford to drill them and Big Oil does it most. Because the knowledge gained from an oil well is so valuable, it is carefully guarded. The geologists who evaluate the rock and sand that comes out of the hole are often severely limited in the amount of detail they can release about what is down there. It may be decades before details will be freely published.

Another way to learn what's down there is "seismic sounding" where shockwaves from small surface explosions or thumper trucks are reflected off layers and discontinuities deep underground. But the wells are still needed to provide a kind of "ground truth" about the layers since the reflected waves only indirectly imply the kind of materials below.

South Florida hasn't got much oil, so there hasn't been much money to explore its basement. From what we know though, it appears pretty simple: It's just a big slab of dirty limestone and dolostone. Dolostone you will recall is the mineral dolomite, formed in sea water when magnesium atoms link to the simple calcite molecule, $CaCO_3$, to make $CaMg(CO_3)_2$ in a few million years. Soil is throughout it because lush plant life (and death) covered surfaces exposed to light as the stone precipitated from seawater.

The figure this month, "Possible Vertical Cross-Section of Florida" is pretty accurate for water depths. These are measured and published in exquisite detail by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. But when we plunge beneath the earth, hard facts become soft-ish. There is contradiction and vagueness. This may be due in part to business secrecy mentioned earlier, but also simply because it's so difficult to determine precisely what is miles below the surface.



Possible Vertical Cross-Section of Florida At About Alligator Alley, 26.3 Degrees N

Note Vertical Depth Scale Exaggeration

With this caveat, the figure is perhaps most interesting in what it doesn't show. There are no sharply contrasting layers. It's pretty much just limestone and its cousin dolostone mixed with the detritus of plant life. To be sure, layers of many different kinds of lime- and dolostone, along with gravels of all are found. However, we don't find layers of basalt and that's significant.

We think of volcanic eruptions as mountains exploding with great destruction. There is a gentler event when the molten magma (which powers a volcano) is under lower pressure and simply wells up slowly over centuries. It may find cracks between layers of rock that it can flow through sideways, producing a horizontal "sill." Diagonal movements called "dikes" also happen, and in either case the magma may never reach the surface, or at least not to explosively build a mountain. The Palisades sill along the Hudson River in New Jersey is an example of non-mountain building volcanic rock.

Since we don't find these basalt sills under Alligator Alley, we know that South Florida land is truly a "passive margin" and no hard volcanic rock is near the surface. Hence the Calusa made tools from shells instead, and Clovis points aren't common at Craighead Laboratory.

Four miles beneath Bonita Springs, beneath the lowest lime- and dolostone layers is the hard volcanic rock ocean floor. This is the top of a hardened magma crust perhaps 10 to 50 km (6 to 30 miles) thick covering the partially molten mantle of the planet. This crust formed at a mid-ocean spreading zone and followed the waltz-

ing continent as it whirled away from Africa. South Florida formed above it much later.

As soon as the hard rock sea floor forms, sediment starts accumulating on top of it. Sediment is everything that settles through the seawater to the bottom and ranges from dead plants and animals through fine silt to quartz sand and gravel eroded from the continents. As the sediment layer thickens to miles deep, pressures at its bottom become high enough to form hard rock such as chert, given time. The thickness of this sediment layer is highly variable and difficult to measure so it isn't accurately known. Therefore the depth of the top of the hard rock planet crust is also pretty much a guess except where drills have touched it.

Before we leave Florida's Basement, I will tell of the ghosts in it. Oil drilling rigs pump ground-up rock to the surface where geologists examine it carefully. They find tiny shells in the limestone that lived up to 70 million years ago, the deeper the older. (That's April 20 on July's one-year scale.) And even in the deepest deposits many of these shellfish ghosts are of species that lived in shallow water. How did these shore animals get four miles deep under the sea?

One idea is that the weight of new land forming above their shore graves pressed them into the deep. Another is that landslides on steep underwater slopes such as the Florida Escarpment fell into the abyss carrying the shells with them. However they got to the bottom, it wasn't by currents washing them slowly from shallow water because the high-pressure seawater would have dissolved their calcium carbonate. In a landslide event, they could be covered quickly by more falling material that preserved them.

So these are the wet processes that formed South Florida. How they control and define the remarkable surface where the Calusa, Jeaga and Tequesta learned to thrive will be our topic next time.

About SWFAS

SWFAS web site: www.explorationsinc.com/swfl-archaeology

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
Publicity - Victoria Rans
Newsletter - Karen Nelson

If you would like to join SWFAS, please address your check to: The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society; P.O. Box 9965; Naples, FL 34101

Dues are: Individual - $20; Sustaining - $50; Family - $35; Student $15

Board meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Hampton Inn in Bonita Springs. All welcome. Member meetings are the third Wednesday at 7:30 (coffee served at 7) at the Bonita Springs Community Hall on Old 41 (by the banyan tree).

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 9965
Naples, FL 34101