



Vol. 23 No. 3

March 2007

SWFAS CalusaFest 2007: Interpreting the Calusa Landscape

Naples Depot Museum,
1051 Fifth Avenue South, Naples
Saturday, March 17 - 12 - 4 p.m.

The Naples Depot Museum will host another fascinating CalusaFest with displays about artifacts, local history, and heritage tourism as well as a model of the Marco Island Museum for which capital funds are being sought. A series of presentations will begin at 12pm on unique and accessible archaeological sites by area archaeologists. The event is free of charge. SWFAS will be accepting donations for the Marco Museum capital campaign fund.

12 noon - ***MarGood Lodge: An Evolving Roadside Attraction at Goodland Point***
- John Beriault

1 p.m. - ***From Cow Pasture to Interpretive Trail: Developing the Calusa Heritage Trail at Pineland*** - John Worth

2 p.m. - ***Anatomy of a Shell Mound: Creating the Walk-In Exhibit at Mound House***
- Theresa Schober

3 p.m. - ***The Cushing Expedition Points the Way for a Marco Island Museum***
- Bill & Betsy Perdichizzi

Abstracts:

MarGood Lodge: An Evolving Roadside Attraction at Goodland Point - John Beriault

The MarGood Lodge property recently acquired by Collier County Parks and Recreation contains a historic resort and tourist attraction built over a portion of the 70-acre Goodland Point site, inhabited for over 2,000 years. This presentation will detail archaeological excavations on the property as well as the colorful lives of the original owners "Reckless" Rex and Ruby Johnson, daredevil aerial acrobats and balloonists.

John Beriault is a lifelong resident of Southwest Florida and co-founded the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society in addition to serving as its first president. John is the West Coast representative of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc. of Davie, Florida.

From Cow Pasture to Interpretive Trail: Developing the Calusa Heritage Trail at Pineland - John Worth

The Calusa Heritage Trail, which opened in 2004 at the Randell Research Center, represents the culmination of several decades of archaeological research and associated public education programs centering on the Pineland archaeological site. This presentation reviews the development of the Trail, including exhibit content and visitor infrastructure.

John Worth is presently Assistant Director of the Randell Research Center, and has spent the last 15 years

CalusaFest

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developing public archaeology programs in Georgia and Florida. His predominant research interests center on the ethnohistory and archaeology of Native Americans in and around colonial Spanish Florida.

Anatomy of a Shell Mound: Creating the Walk-In Exhibit at Mound House - Theresa Schober

The Mound House is an almost three-acre archaeological and historical site on Fort Myers Beach purchased by the Town for conservation purposes in 2000. A major archaeological exhibit will be opening in 2008 where the 1950s landowner constructed a swimming pool in the top of the mound. The pool space has since been converted into a 50-foot-long room with shell mound walls providing a rare view into the 2,000 year history of the site.

Theresa Schober is the Director of the Mound House and has spent the past five years obtaining funding for the many improvements now slated for the property. As an archaeologist, she has worked in Canada, Mexico, Panama, and spent the last nine years work-

ing in Southwest Florida.

The Cushing Expedition Points the Way for a Marco Island Museum - Bill & Betsy Perdichizzi

The Pepper-Hearst Expedition to Key Marco (now Marco Island) led by Frank Hamilton Cushing in 1895-1896 produced one of the most famous artifact assemblages known in North America -- a collection of wooden and bone sculptures, carvings, and masks in addition to everyday objects -- all preserved within the site's coastal muck. While Marco Island has since transformed from a pioneer community, creation of a county museum of honor the Island's unique place in southwest Florida's history is a new frontier.

*Bill & Betsy Perdichizzi are Directors of the Marco Island Historical Society and Chair the Capital Campaign Committee. Together they have written and produced two books on Marco Island history: *A Girl Called Tommie, Queen of Marco Island* (1999) and *Island Voices, They Came to Marco Island* (2006).*

Happening this month

Old Florida Festival - Collier County Museum

March 31 & April 1, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\$5 adults, \$2 students, children under 8 free.

The OLD FLORIDA FESTIVAL is a colorful, living history event designed to preserve and protect the local traditions and folkways that are rapidly disappearing from our daily lives. There are typically 70 or more participants arranged in historic "camps" with re-enactors and craft workers providing continuous drills and demonstrations.

First Floridians

Dedicated to Southwest Florida's first Native American cultures, the camp begins with an impression of the Paleoindians, stone-age man that first populated Florida. Pre-Columbian Calusa Indians are portrayed by members of the Heritage of the Ancient Ones. The grouping also includes early Creek and Seminole Indians, as well as the lesser known Black Seminole.

Spanish Conquest

Here, living historians recreate the members of a 16th

century Spanish expedition to Florida. Featured are crossbow and early firearms demonstrations, repairing armor, and the typical camp life of a garrison in the New World.



Florida Colonial Living is represented by Continental and British soldiers of the American Revolution, Spanish colonists, militiamen from Fort Mose, early American pioneers, colorful artisans, frontiersmen and townspeople. Pirate gamblers demonstrate popular period games and tell about life aboard an 18th century ship. Bringing more recent history to life are camps representing *Pioneer Life* and the role of Naples in *World War II*. Thousands of soldiers and pilots trained at the Naples Airfield - many of whom returned after the war to take up residence in Collier County. Come out and see our beautifully restored Sherman Tank!



Marco Island Historical Society raising funds for Museum

By Betsy Perdichizzi

Join the efforts of the Marco Island Historical Society to raise funds for the "Marco Museum Building Fund." The museum will be located next to the Marco Island Public Library. This is a significant effort to create a museum on the island home of the Pepper Hearst Expedition. \$1.2 million has been raised of \$1.7 million which must be raised by mid-May in order to meet deadlines for competitive private and state grants.

Fundraising is primarily through pledges. Individuals, businesses, clubs and organizations who join the Founders Circle will have their names engraved on the entrance wall of the museum. Founder's Circle begins at \$1,000 (a mere \$250 pledge over four years). Inner Circle begins at \$10,000.

If you want to learn more, contact Betsy and Bill Perdichizzi (co-chairs of the capital campaign); they have created a power point presentation that includes 60-70 slides of historic photos telling the story of Marco Island.

Southwest Florida History and Archaeology Festival at Rookery Bay

Saturday, March 24
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Presentation: The Archaeology of Shell Island and Rookery Bay Reserve - Randolph Widmer, University of Houston

Guided Walks along the Trails Through Time:

Ethnobotany and Calusa's Use of Native Plants

Pioneers of the Little Marco Settlement

* space is limited: registration recommended

Chautauqua Presentation: - Marco Island Historical Society portrays Tommie Barfield, Captain Bill Collier and other historical personages.

PLUS Activities, artifacts, crafts, pioneer games and more will take you back in time. BBQ food available throughout the day.

Admission: \$5. FREE for members and kids under 12
Paddle into the Past - Afternoon guided kayak experience through the mangroves near Shell Island. \$35 per person, registration required.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center

300 Tower Road, off Collier Boulevard between Naples & Marco Island

www.rookerybay.org 239/417-6310

Everglades Day Tour

The Bonita Springs Historical Society is sponsoring a history tour to Everglades City and Chokoloskee on Wednesday, March 28, 2007. The tour will include the Museum of the Everglades, the restored City Hall, the Smallwood Store, and lunch at the Rod and Gun Club. The cost including bus transportation from Bonita Springs, entrance fees, and lunch will be \$60 for members of local historical societies and \$80 for nonmembers. Reservations are limited and required. Reservations accepted on a first come basis by calling Carol Inman at 239-595-3730.

Little Salt Spring Archaeological Site Exhibit

will be on display at the North Port Public Library, located at 13800 S. Tamiami Trail, from March 1 through 30. Gifted to the University of Miami in 1982, a 110-acre preserve contains the 240-foot deep, hourglass-shaped sinkhole known as Little Salt Spring. The water conditions in the sinkhole have allowed for amazing preservation of bones and other artifacts that have been carefully explored and analyzed by the University of Miami for over two decades. The exhibit provides a look at the region dating back to when the first Floridians arrived over 12,000 years ago.

CORRECTION

In the February newsletter, Betsy McCarthy was inadvertently left off the list of new Board members. Apologies to Betsy from the editor, who assumes full responsibility for the omission.

Trail of the Lost Tribes has a new name

The Trail of the Lost Tribes, a non-profit organization whose mission is public education of the rich Indian heritage in Florida from ancient times to the modern era, is proud to announce that it has changed its name to: Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage

The new name reflects the Trail's expanded mission to share the history, culture, language, beliefs, and customs of Florida's Native Americans from their first arrival 12,000 years ago to the present day. The Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage invites you to participate in and explore the American Indian experience in Florida.

Founded in 2000, the current Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage is a membership network of three heritage interpreters and twenty six public sites, including history museums, archaeological sites, and city, county, state and national parks. In addition to celebrating Native American heritage, the Trail membership network seeks to pro-

mote awareness, responsible visitation and protection of the remaining cultural sites, middens, and mounds of the original peoples of Florida.

With funding from the Florida Humanities Council, the Frank E. Duckwall Foundation, and VISIT FLORIDA, the Trail has produced three important archaeological speaker series and three very popular tourism brochures which are distributed throughout the state and at all VISIT FLORIDA Welcome Centers.

Currently, the Trail is producing the Florida Native American Heritage Trail publication through a grant from the Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources. This publication will list over one hundred locations throughout Florida where Native American history and heritage information is available to the public.

Our web site, www.trailofthelosttribes.org will now be accessible by either our initial name or the new name, www.trailoffloridasindianheritage.org.

About SWFAS

The Directorate:
President - Theresa Schober
1st VP - Karen Nelson
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 - Kara Bridgman Sweeney
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 6:45 p.m. at the Hampton Inn in Bonita Springs (except Dec. 2006, as noted above). 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
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