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February: The Latest on the Mound House Restoration

SWFAS President and Mound House Director Theresa Schober will be the speaker at the February 20 SWFAS meeting, bringing SWFAS members up to date on the ongoing work at the Mound House. The meeting will be held in its regular location, at the Community Center in Bonita Springs, starting at 7:30 (snacks and coffee at 7).

The Mound House is a cultural and environmental learning center situated on a Calusa shell mound on the back bay side of Fort Myers Beach. The site was purchased by the Town of Fort Myers Beach for conservation purposes in 2000.

The Mound House will soon contain interpretive exhibits about local history, prehistory, and the unique estuarine environment that all past occupants of this area have depended upon. Major grant funding from state and local sources supports the restoration of a historically sensitive native landscape that will enhance the property.

Restoration of the house's exterior to resemble its 1921 configuration, funded by the Florida division of historical resources, should be completed in February of this year. Restoration of the grounds, including the planting of native vegetation, construction of pathways and a parking area plus additional signage, has been funded by Lee County's Tourist Development



Theresa Schober pointing out the layers of the long profile from the pool excavation, which will be preserved and on view in the archaeological exhibit

Council.

Earlier landscape photos of the property show coconut palms and grapefruit trees; restoration will include a fruit orchard behind and around the house to give a feel for what the 1921 landscape was. Also being planned is the planting of vegetation utilized by the Calusa, with signage indicating

their uses.

In addition, construction of a swimming pool into the archaeological mound in 1958 provided the opportunity to develop an incredible exhibit revealing a cross-section of the mound extending over 60 horizontal feet. Artifact analysis is proceeding,

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Marco History & Art Series Concludes with Bill Marquardt

“Learning about one’s surroundings and history is not just for children — the excitement extends to adults of all ages,” believes archaeologist William H. Marquardt, Curator in Archaeology, Florida Museum of Natural History, Director of the Randell Research Center, and Director of the University of Florida Institute of Archaeology and Paleoenvironmental Studies at the University of Florida.

Dr. Marquardt is the keynote speaker at the fourth and final segment of art lecture series *Art Interprets History: Visions of Marco Island’s Past*, scheduled to be held Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008, 7 - 9 p.m. at the Mackle Park Civic Auditorium located at 1361 Andalusia Court on Marco Island. Using the site of the Old Marco Inn, Dr. Marquardt will also guide a tour of the ancient Calusa ceremonial

site where history buffs will learn about the elaborate rituals held with synchronized singing and processions of masked priests. The tour will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Old Marco Inn located at 100 Palm Street on Marco Island. Both the lecture and tour are free and open to the public.

Art Interprets History is a multi-phased project combining lectures and field trips with original art work representing scenes from Marco Island’s history. Led by the collaborative efforts of the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) and the Art League of Marco Island (ALMI), the series is designed to blend the humanities disciplines of history, archaeology, and anthropology with visual art to create awareness of the people and events of Marco Island’s past.

International figurative painter and artist Jonathan Green will join Dr. Marquardt, unveiling the progress of his interpretative paintings of the Calusa Indian lifestyle. Stephen Muldoon – a third generation painter diverse in his scale from easel painting to murals to trompe l’oeil and *Art Interprets History*



*Distant Thoughts, 2002 – Oil on Canvas 36" x 48" © Jonathan Green.
Collection of Dominick and BJ Pagano*

curator Paul Arsenault, a Naples resident and renowned painter of contemporary life in coastal communities -- will also debut new interpretative artwork. The artists used historical photographs and documents as well as early paintings of Marco Island to create individual artful interpretations of Calusa Indian lifestyles.

William H. Marquardt has spent the past 20 years researching and studying the Calusa Indians. His experience has shown many newcomers are fascinated and eager to learn about Florida’s environment and history. According to Dr. Marquardt, in the sixteenth century, the Spaniards who arrived in southwest Florida encountered a populous, sedentary, and politically intricate society: the Calusa.

From several firsthand accounts of south Florida Indians written by Europeans, it is apparent that the Calusa were socially complex and politically powerful. The Calusa were well established, with a population of perhaps 20,000 or more.

In 1566, over 4,000 people gathered

to witness ceremonies in which the Calusa king made an alliance with Spanish governor Menéndez de Avilés. The king entertained the governor in a building so large that 2,000 people could stand inside. Inside a great temple, they observed walls covered by carved and painted wooden masks. The Calusa king had the power of life and death over his subjects and was thought by them to be able to intercede with the spirits that sustained the environment’s bounty. Commoners supported the nobility and provided them with food and other material necessities. Towns throughout south Florida sent tribute to the Calusa.

Director of the Randell Research Center – a research and education facility in Pineland, Lee County, Florida – Marquardt received his Ph.D. from Washington University, St. Louis in 1974. He has conducted archaeological research in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri, New Mexico, and Burgundy (France). Since 1983, he has directed

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Mound House, from page 1

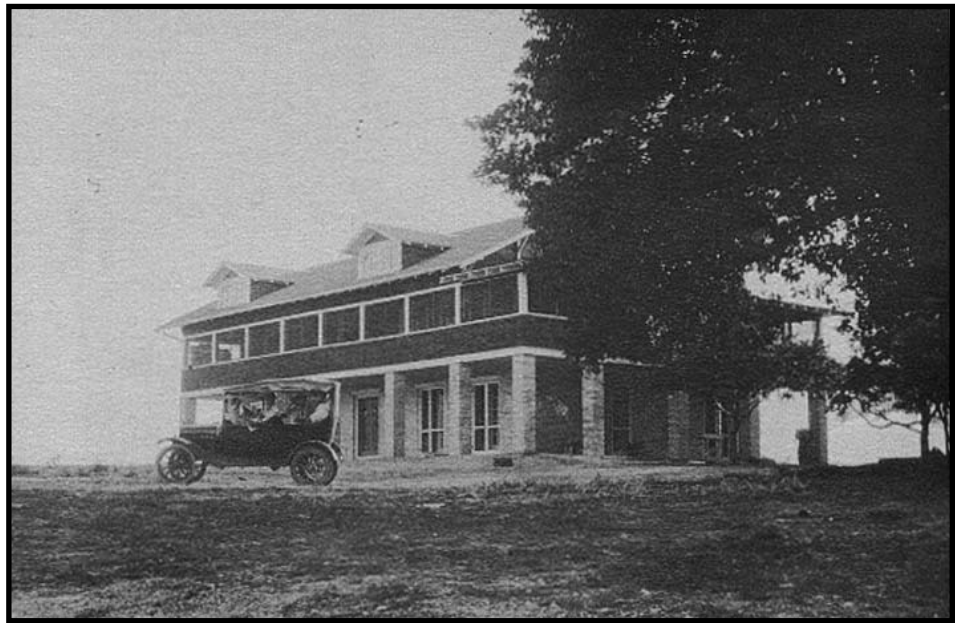
however, the deep recesses of the mound have already revealed new insights into the site's construction and early use.

SWFAS members who toured the site in Dec. 2006 will recall the extent of the mound and the richly layered profile of the long wall. The excavation has been deepened and roofed over and work is proceeding on the exhibit space.

As part of the long-range planning for the future of the Mound House, Schober will be meeting with Doug Jones, Director of the Florida Museum of Natural History,

This presentation will summarize all current projects at the site, with sneak previews of the planned exhibits. The majority of restoration work will be complete by December of 2008.

Theresa Schober has conducted archaeological research in southwest Florida for the past nine years and is the current Director of the Mound House.



Mound House in 1921.

She holds a M.A. in Anthropology from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a Ph.D. candidate at University of Florida. In addition to her

work in Florida, she has conducted field work in Canada, Mexico, and Panama.

Marco, from left

the Southwest Florida Project, focused on the ancient domain of the Calusa Indians (present-day Charlotte, Lee, and Collier counties). He is curator of the permanent exhibit *People of the Estuary: Six Thousand Years in South Florida* in the Florida Museum's Hall of South Florida People and Environments.

"This is an exciting project to bring the Calusa Indians to visual life," says artist Jonathan Green. "My art is connected to spiritual, mental and social concerns with a strong interest in human figures, so imagining the lifestyle of the ancient Calusa culture intrigued me. The opportunity to help raise awareness and preserve Marco Island's history is also important to me.

"The Calusa Indians wore quite a bit of jewelry and decorated their bodies extensively, so the combination of pattern and abstract color spaces are the stylistic basis of

my interpretation," he adds.

The Art Interprets History programs are made possible through grants from the Florida Humanities Council (FHC), the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Florida State Division of Cultural Affairs and are proudly sponsored by M&I Bank Marco Island, Florida.

The South Florida archaeological collections contain materials from thirteen counties (Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Dade, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Martin, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie). This area includes 14,666 square miles, about 27% of the area of Florida. William Marquardt also curates the ethnographic collection of Seminole and Miccosukee material culture.

For more information, visit the Marco Island Historical Society website www.theMIHS.org.

Calusa Heritage Day at RRC

Randell Research Center in Pine Island will be celebrating Calusa Heritage Day on Saturday, February 23 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The day's events will focus on the central themes of the RRC's research and education: archaeology, history, and ecology.

This year's event will be expanded to include more participants related to history and ecology. The day-long

event (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) will take place at the Pineland site, and will be centered around the Teaching Pavilion and Calusa Heritage Trail. There will be a variety of family activities, exhibits, and information stations in a festival format as well as guided site tours. And last-minute word-of-mouth has it (unconfirmed with a Sunday deadline) that Robin Brown may be on hand with a pottery workshop.

Don't forget to renew your membership -- all memberships expire in January!

Nominees for SWFAS 2008 Officers & Trustees

SWFAS Board members have submitted a list of candidates for the 2008 Officers and Trustees. The vote by the SWFAS general membership will be held at the February meeting. There was not a quorum present for voting at the special January meeting held at the Randell Research Center. Nominations from the floor will be accepted until the vote.

OFFICERS:

President: Theresa Schober

1st VP: Tom Franchino

2nd VP: James Oswald

Recording Secretary: JoAnn Grey

Treasurer: Charlie Strader

Membership Sec: Charlie Strader

TRUSTEES:

First year of 3 year term:

- Rebecca Austin

- Alison Elgart

Second year of 3 year term:

- John Beriault

- Betsy McCarthy

- Jean Belknap

Last year of 3 year term:

- Jack Thompson

- Betsy Perdichizzi

- Liz Clement

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

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 usually held prior to the regular meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at the Bonita Springs Community Hall on Old 41 (by the banyan tree). All are welcome. Board meetings begin at 6:00; regular meetings begin at 7:30 (with coffee served at 7).

**The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 9965
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