



**Vol. 24 No. 7**

**July-August 2008**

**There will be NO SWFAS meeting or newsletter in August.  
After the July 12 field trip, the next SWFAS meeting will be Sept. 17**

### **September 17 at SWFAS: John Beriault on Archaeology and Plants**

“Archaeology and Plants: Beating the Bushes for Archaeological Sites in Southwest Florida” will be the subject of John Beriault’s September 17 SWFAS talk. John, a life-long Collier County resident, founding member of SWFAS, and contract archaeologist will present a slide show illustrating how archaeologists look at vegetation to locate archaeological and historical sites. Beriault has been a life-long avocational archaeologist and has worked professionally

for the last ten years for the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy of Davie, Florida. The main premise of the talk is above-ground native plant formations and associations that can reliably mirror below-ground archaeological sites and material, and how astute archaeologists use the information to locate, investigate, and hopefully preserve area archaeological sites.

### **SWFAS July 12 Field Trip to Long Key Interpretive Center in Davie**

There will be a SWFAS field trip on July 12 to tour the recently opened Long Key Interpretive Center in west Davie, Broward County.

The Long Key Nature Center and Natural Area consists of 157 acres of magnificent live oak and tropical hardwood hammock surrounded by wetlands, managed by Broward County Parks and Recreation. As recently as 100 years ago, the elevated oak hammock was part of a series of tree islands within the Everglades. Long Key encompasses some of the most significant archaeological, historical, and ecological resources within the area and was home to the Tequesta and subsequently, Seminole Indians.

Bob Carr, archaeologist, Director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy (AHC), and chief developer of the archaeological portion of the Long Key Interpretive Center, will lead the tour through the newly-opened 18,000-square foot facility.

Bob will conduct a tour of the Museum for approximately an hour. This museum is "state of the art" and is focused on area Indians, historic and prehistoric. There is a great short walking trail through a magnificent climax live oak

hammock on a natural sand ridge (an historic high island in the sawgrass Everglades - thus the name Long Key).

Tour participants are asked to meet at 10 a.m. at the new rest stop between mile markers 36 and 35 along Alligator Alley (Interstate 75), approximately 70 miles east of Naples. You will need to be on the Naples end of Alligator Alley by about 9 a.m., or allow 1.5 hours from Naples. When you arrive at the rest stop, look for John Beriault’s silver-grey Chevy Blazer SUV.

Note: It would be a good idea to have someone in the car with a cell phone, so if you get lost, you can call John’s cell 239-641-4919 for help/directions.

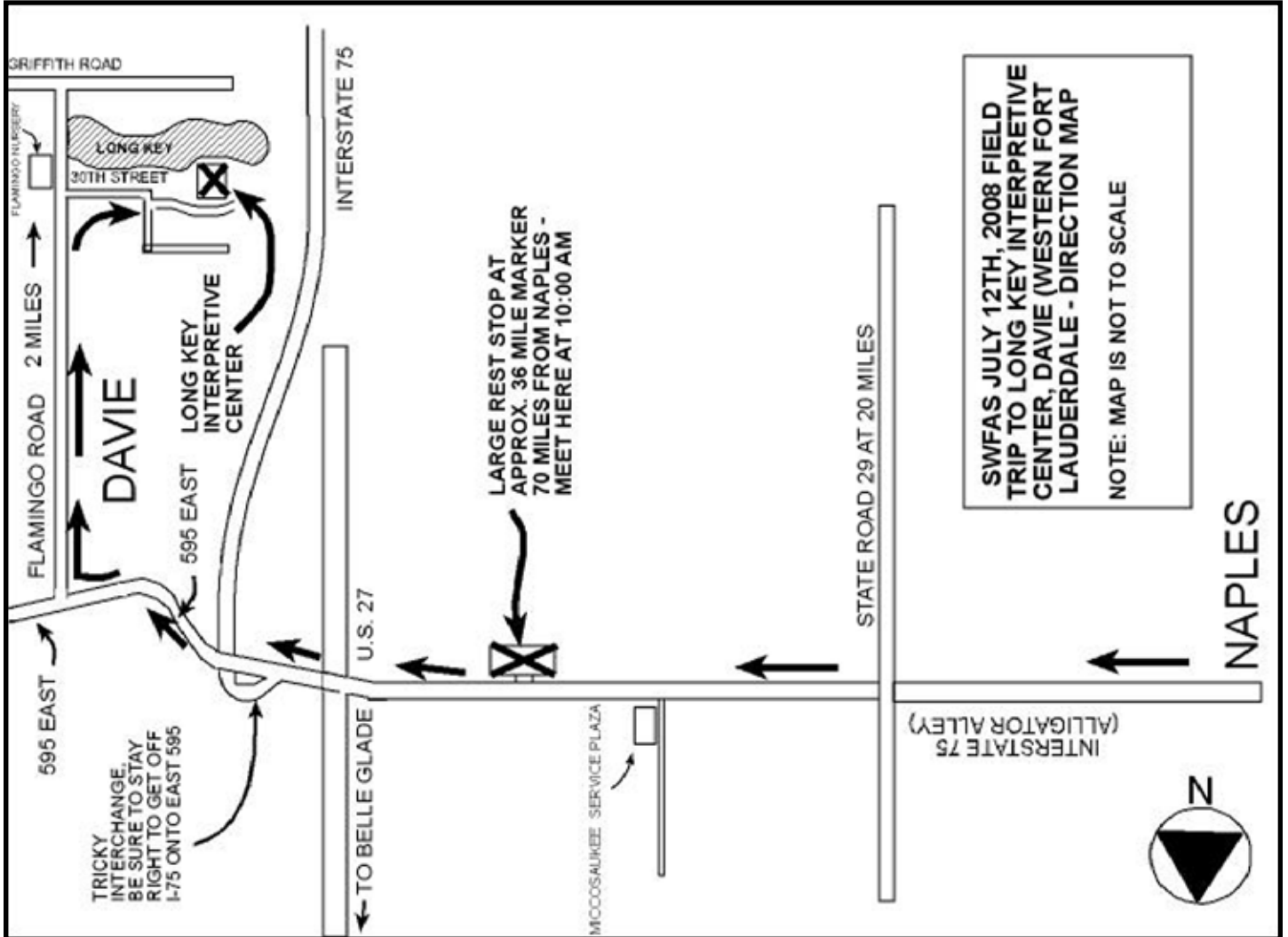
Leaving the rest area at 10:15 a.m., we will carpool to the Interpretive Center in time for a noon lunch on the grounds (please bring your lunch with you).

**For map and directions from the rest stop,  
see Page 2.**

# Map & Directions for July 12 Field Trip to Long Key Interpretive Center

1. Continue east on I-75 from the rest stop.
2. At Weston, past S.R. 27, there is a tricky interchange to get off I-75 onto 595. Make sure to bear right.
3. Travel east on 595 to Flamingo Road (the first major exit).
4. Turn south on Flamingo Road and go approximately two miles to 30th Street.
5. Turn right (west) across from the Flamingo Nursery. Go roughly 1/2 mile, watching for the Long Key Interpretive Center Sign. The Interpretive Center is at the site of the old Kapok Tree Restaurant, popular 20-30 years ago.

Call John on his cell phone if you get lost:  
239-641-4919.



## Why Are the Good Guys Leaving? In Memory of Don Taggart

By John G. Beriault

I've written several articles lately dealing with mortality. I've mentioned absent friends and named three people who were special to our Society and myself that have passed on and left us. I've ruminated on getting older and skirted the issue of mortality. The truth is: we're all gonna die...

The older you get, the more people that you knew, worked with, liked, respected... up and do just that – die. Sometimes you get word they are failing. Sometimes, one day they're just not there any more, and the shock of that is one of the many miseries the living endure as best can.

One more person has left us - Don Taggart, and I only found out just a few days ago. Don was a nice, quiet, matter-of-fact fellow. And he was there to help, to do good and be of use. If you were a friend of Don's and you asked him for help... why, it was a given he'd help you, just like that, no fuss or fretting, he'd get it done.

You had to know Don and talk with him to find out much about him. He wouldn't put himself forward and say much about himself. And when he did talk, you needed to listen because it was important and to the point, most often delivered with a self-effacing sense of humor, even if what

he had to say was serious stuff.

The last time I saw Don he was helping me. I needed to get a load of firewood over to the Randell Research Center for the ceramic firing I was helping Dr. Robin Brown do. I thought of Don, called him, and knew he would say yes to helping. He drove to my place in Naples, we loaded up the wood. After unloading, we went and had lunch together. Don mentioned as an aside he had a small medical concern, something that would be an immense thing blotting the horizons for anyone else, and he needed at the same time to go help a family member who was in very great need.

Later, when I hadn't heard from him for awhile, I emailed, and the word came back from his wife Peggy... he was gone. Don was a fixture of our group, kindly, matter-of-fact, dependable – a comforting presence and an indication of the kind of people I've been privileged to know through SWFAS. Without him and the others who have left us, the landscape is bleaker and the world less friendly. Don, thank you for helping, my friend, you were a good guy...

*Editor's note: Don Taggart passed away on March 11; John Beriault wrote this column on June 1, having just heard about Don's death.*

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## FPAN and Calusa Carts: News from the Mound House

By Theresa Schober

Director, The Mound House

### Calusa Carts

The Mound House archaeological and historical site will be taking its show "on the road" thanks to a \$27,790 matching grant from the Division of Historical Resources awarded in July. Designed in concert with the shell mound exhibit, where visitors will soon be able to walk inside the Calusa mound in the former location of a large swimming

pool, two mobile educational carts combine graphics, text, audio-visual and interactive components to enhance our interpretive abilities off-site.

A stratigraphy cart will replicate a one-by-one meter square excavation unit that demonstrates layers within a shell mound over time and includes pull-out discovery drawers of different mound layers that interpret mound building episodes between A.D. 0-800. A second cart will focus on regional geography of sites within the Calusa domain including a touchable exaggerated relief map with fiber optic lights accompanied by audio recordings that identify changing patterns of site use, location, and design through time. Both carts provide room for artifact replicas, display areas, and docent supplies.

Designed to fit side-by-side in the back of a truck or van, the carts will make their debut in spring 2009 at a variety of community events and educational venues to increase public awareness of Florida's rich cultural heritage. The Mound House is owned and operated by the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

### FPAN

The Mound House is excited to announce its selection as the Southwest Florida Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network.

Established by the Florida legislature in 2004, the network strives to "stem the rapid deterioration of this state's buried past and to expand public interest in archaeology." Each of eight network centers across the state is staffed with a public archaeologist and outreach coordinator whose primary role is to increase awareness of Florida's rich heritage by fostering visible public outreach programs and partnering with other educational organizations, assisting local governments in their efforts to preserve archaeological resources, and raising awareness of state programs by providing venues for regional training and assisting in the identification of sites eligible for listing on the National Register. The Southwest Regional Center will serve Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Collier Counties.





## Conservation 20/20 Setting New Priorities

*As reported by Harold Bruner in the April Calusa Land Trust Newsletter,*

Times have changed for Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program - a willing-seller land acquisition program funded through a 1/2 mil gas tax. With a declined real estate market, the county is one of fewer cash buyers of land and nominations for properties to the program have experienced a significant increase. As the Pine Island nominations are reviewed by the Calusa Land Trust, new priorities were established to address the influx. As stated by Bruner, the committees focus on Pine Island includes "larger tracts of 40 acres or more; properties that are contiguous to land that

is already preserved; and lands that are adjacent to any of the open waters that surround Pine Island." While those priorities seem reasonable on the surface, this would preclude the use of Conservation 20/20 funds in a number of more built-out regions in Lee County where 40-acre tracts of land are no longer available. In addition, the Conservation 20/20 program added a criterion for archaeological resources in its evaluation of environmental sensitivity. Only two sites in Lee County, already largely in public ownership, would meet this size threshold essentially rendering archaeological resources ineligible for acquisition by the program. The issue of altering the criteria for Conservation 20/20 will be taken up by the Board of County Commissioners later this year.

## Upcoming Programs

- August – No meeting
- September 17th – John Beriault, "Plants & Archaeology"
- October 15th – Rachel Wentz, "Beneath the Surface: The Mortuary Ponds of Florida's Archaic"
- November 19th – Margo Schwadron, "Mound Complexity in the 10,000 Islands"
- December 13th – Annual Picnic at Roberts Ranch in Immokalee.
- January 21st, 2009 – Phyllis Kolianos, "Early Maritime Travel and Coastal Habitation on Old Tampa Bay"
- February 18th – TBA
- March 21st – Trail Speaker Event at the Collier County Museum

## Early Lake O Settlements Subject of Jim Pepe's June 18 SWFAS Talk

*By Alison Elgart*

On June 18, SWFAS welcomed southern Florida archaeologist Jim Pepe to the Bonita Springs Community Center. Jim's talk, entitled, "Lakeside Ranch CERP Excavations: A Glimpse of Early Settlement along Lake Okeechobee," reported on recent work he has directed at Lakeside Ranch, a parcel located in Martin County on the eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee. Jim and the Janus Research crew located and excavated seven prehistoric archaeological sites as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). These sites were located either on high sand dunes of the old lakeshore or on ancient creeks. Jim purports that Lake Okeechobee displayed seasonal fluctuations in the past as it does today. However, without a dike in place around it, the water level would have risen and fallen as it does now, but the lake would also have expanded and contracted on the landscape.

The northernmost two sites are the oldest, demonstrated by the presence of fiber-tempered pottery, the first pottery type found in Florida, and a lithic flake scatter. The pottery indicates that the sites may date back 4,000 years, and Jim surmises that the chert flakes represent an even older component of the site than the pottery component. There is no local chert source, so it must have been a trade item.

Another site was discovered beneath one meter of sand. Jim hypothesizes that this sand is a natural feature,



*Jim Pepe*

and represents deposition from several violent prehistoric storms that passed over the lake.

Interesting artifacts found at the sites include possible daub, a clay element used in shelter construction (as in, "wattle and daub"), a Busycon hammer, a Strombus celt, a bone awl, and shark teeth. As with the chert, marine artifacts are not local and must have been traded in to the area, alluding to some major precolumbian trade networks through the Okeechobee

area. Floral analysis revealed charred elderberry and pokeweed seeds at all of the sites. The presence of these seeds is intriguing, as pokeweed is toxic if regularly consumed, and elderberry is a known medicinal herb. The fact that these seeds were available denotes that these areas were occupied in the late summer to fall.

The lakeshore sites were probably abandoned about 1,000 years ago, at the same time that we start to see sites with major earthworks around the lake. Jim envisions that the egalitarian society that inhabited the small Lakeside Ranch sites was replaced by a chiefdom that perhaps influenced all of southern Florida. He left us with the controversial idea that the precious metal artifacts and all of the trade items that are found in the Okeechobee area from about 1000 B.P. to contact period represent the existence of a complex society that pre-dated the Calusa, and may have coexisted with the Calusa.

## Geology Rules: Alien Stone

By Jack Harvey

Southern Florida is made of lots of limestone in its many varieties. One is oolite: tiny calcite spheroids called ooids that are cemented together by more calcite. Another, commonly called lime rock in Florida, consists of shells again cemented together by calcite. Still another is coral formed by dense colonies of tiny animals. And don't forget bryolite, formed from the coral-like skeletons of bryozoans, again cemented into a solid mass by calcite. All these limestone-related materials come from seawater around us, native-born so to speak.

An important component is the organic detritus of native sea shore life that eventually becomes South Florida soil humus.

But there is another major ingredient that does not originate in sea water and is too heavy to be blown here by winds. Rather than being calcium-based, this material is silicon-based, commonly known as silicon dioxide or silica. Various light metals such as sodium, aluminum and potassium added to silica form feldspar variations. Together, silica and the feldspars make granite, a relatively light rock that floats on the iron-rich heavy crust rocks such as basalt. Because it rafts on the heavier crust, granite is the dominant rock of continents.

We know silica and feldspar in South Florida as the sand in our soil and on our award-winning beaches. Silica/feldspar has a crucial difference from limestone. Whereas limestone precipitates and dissolves depending on the water flowing over it, silica is insoluble. And ours is all alien to South Florida.

Silica sand originates as igneous rock, melted deep in the planet. As the molten magma migrates to the surface and



*Collier County Main Canal. Top layer of humus and silica sand supports dense foliage. Lower layer blends from nearly pure calcite limestone to mixed shells and oolite.*

cools, it often crystallizes into quartz and the feldspar forms of silica. Tectonic upheaval and volcanoes lift the rock to high altitudes where winter rain freezes in cracks, breaking it into small fragments. Spring rain washes and tumbles the fragments, smashing them even finer. Plant roots help, squeezing into cracks and splitting them open. The rain can't dissolve silica as it would calcite, so the sandy particles simply wash down mountain streams.

The old mountains of Alabama and Georgia were once much taller and rugged, like the younger Rocky Mountains. Erosion wore them down, and all the material worn away ended up on coastal plains or in the ocean. The sand grains become sea-born migrants, moving with littoral currents

*Continued on Page 6*



*Coral Gables in South Miami. Nearly twelve foot layer of the Miami Limestone with oolite at the top, blending to bryolite lower down. This thicker eastern part is known as the Atlantic Coastal Ridge.*



*Samples of bryolite from Coral Gables. Large sample at center shows bryozoan tubes. End view sample is at upper right.*



## Geology Rules, continued from page 5

parallel to the shore along both the eastern and western sides of the peninsula.

So the snow-white (quartz) and pale yellow (feldspar) sands of our marvelous beaches are made of alien rocks, immigrants from lands far to our north on the ancient main body of the continent. As sea levels rise and fall with planet heating and cooling, every inch of South Florida is often a beach, bathed in this alien sand. Touch the soil at your feet, anywhere you stand in South Florida, and you will feel gritty sand, once Georgia or Alabama granite.

The countless seashore shifts over the ages have produced countless protected areas like Florida Bay between the Keys and the Everglades, where sea life forms detritus that blends with the alien sand to form our soil.

An excellent book on the geologic processes that created South Florida is, "Land from the Sea" by J. E. Hoffmeister, found in most libraries. He explains the formation of passive

margin land in far more detail than we have space for here.

Hoffmeister shows that a convenient way to see the various component layers of South Florida land is to visit our many drainage canals. During the dry season, the water levels are low and excellent stratigraphy is available. Some examples are shown in the photos with this column.

We will look into the many distinct areas geologists have identified that make up South Florida next time.

### SWFAS Hospitality Volunteers Needed

Having refreshments available provides a nice, relaxing opportunity to chat with fellow SWFAS members before the meeting. If anyone would be interested in helping out, please let Theresa Schober or one of the board members know at the next meeting. Any help would be appreciated!

### About SWFAS

#### *The Directorate:*

*President - Theresa Schober  
1st VP - Tom Franchino  
2nd VP - James Oswald  
Recording Secretary - Jo Ann Grey  
Treasurer - Charlie Strader  
Membership Secretary - Charlie Strader*

#### *Trustees:*

*Rebecca Austin, Jean Belknap, John Beriault, Liz Clement, Alison Elgart, Betsy McCarthy, Betsy Perdichizzi, Jack Thompson*

#### *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*

#### *Learn more about SWFAS at:*

**<http://www.explorationsinc.com/swfl-archaeology/index.html>**

*Board meetings are usually held prior to the regular meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at the Bonita Springs Community Hall at 27381 Old U.S. 41 (by the banyan tree). All are welcome. Board meetings begin at 6 p.m. Regular meetings begin at 7:30 (with coffee served at 7).*

## July 2008 Newsletter

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