



Vol. 25 No. 3

March 2009

## No March SWFAS Meeting in Bonita Springs

Come Hear "Trail" Speaker Nancy White at the Collier Museum on March 21

### 2009 Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage Archaeology Speaker Series

- March 10, 2009 6:00-8:00PM, South Florida Museum, Bradenton - Dr. Mary Glowacki, Archaeology Supervisor, Public Lands Archaeology, Bureau of Archaeological Research on "The Anhaica Apalache and the De Soto Expedition: What Are the Facts?"
- March 21, 2009 1:00-2:30PM, Collier County Historical Museum, Naples - Dr. Nancy M. White, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida on "Adventures in Northwest Florida Jungle Archaeology"
- March 26, 2009 1:00-2:30PM, Museum of Florida Art and Culture, South Florida Community College, Avon Park - Christopher M. Still, Florida Heritage Artist
- April 18, 2009 2:00-4:30PM, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, Miami - Dr. James J. Miller on "Latest Research in the Bahamas" & Robert S. Carr on "The Bahamas Legacy: New Discoveries in the Northern Bahamas"

## Volunteers Needed March 5, 6 & 7 for Estero Dig

Dates: March 5, 6, and 7, 2009

Times: From 9:30 AM to 3:30 p.m. (each day)

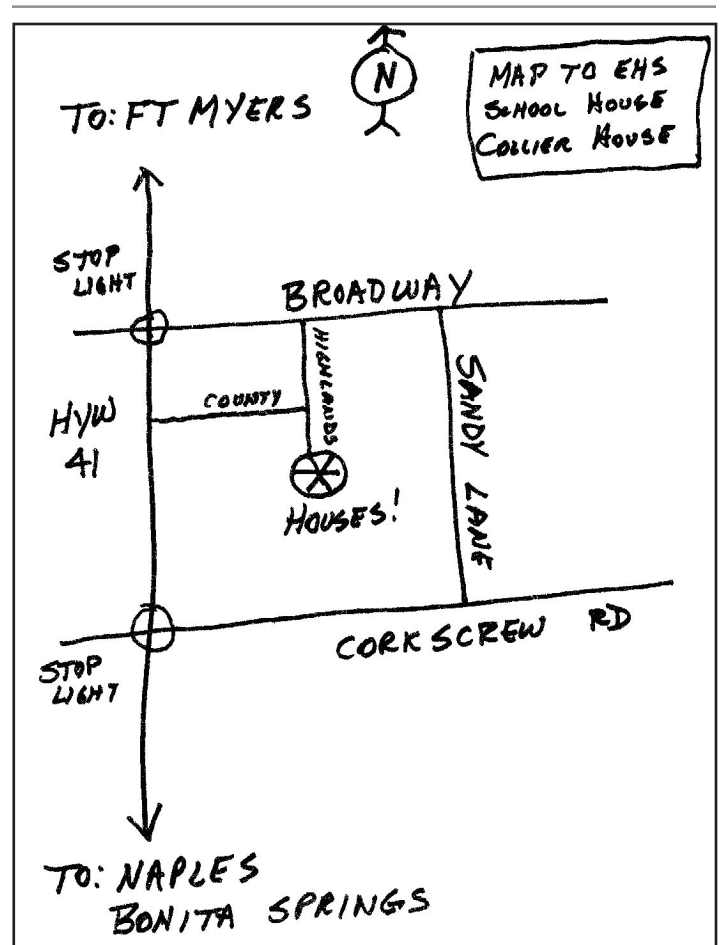
Location: EHS school and Collier houses, located at the end of Highlands Avenue in Estero (see attached Map)

Director of the dig: Theresa Schober of Mound House

Wear old clothes. Bring a lunch and water/drinks. Wear a hat. All equipment will be provided at the site. No experience needed! Training will be provided on site

All artifacts found will be placed in the Collier House museum once the buildings are moved to the new Estero Community Park.

Volunteers being coordinated by Bob Nelson, 390-2221, bngnelson@aol.com or contact SWFAS President Theresa Schober.



Right: Map to the Estero dig, located off the intersection of Broadway & U.S. 41 or Corkscrew & U.S. 41

## Upcoming Programs of Interest

- Mar. 19, 7pm -- **Cracker Cowboy Poet and Storyteller** - Presentation and discussion with Hank Mattson. The Clewiston Museum, 109 Central Ave, Clewiston
- Mar. 21, 1pm **Adventures in Northwest Florida Jungle Archaeology**, Lecture and discussion with archaeologist Nancy Marie White. - Collier County Historical Museum, 3301 E Tamiami Tr, Naples
- Mar. 24, 2pm **NASA's Final Countdown**, Lecture and discussion with National Public Radio's "space expert" Pat Duggins, Collier County Headquarters Library, 2385 Orange Blossom Dr, Naples
- March 31 -- **Dr. William Marquardt** of the Florida Museum of Natural History talks about collections and the preservation policies for a museum at the Marco Island Historical Society. Talks are at 7 p.m. at Mackle Park, 1361 Andalusia Curt on Marco Island. Contact Betsy Perdichizzi for more info (betsyperd@naples.net).
- April 1 -- **Dr. William Marquardt** will also be speaking at the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel at 2 p.m. on "Calusa Mounds and Middens: A Long-term View." His talk will focus on the nature, function and diversity of shell mounds in Southwest Florida from 6,000 years ago to the time of European contact. The Shell Museum is at 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road; phone 239/395-2233. [www.shellmuseum.org](http://www.shellmuseum.org)

## RRC's Calusa Heritage Day 2009

By Michael Wylde

The weather was great, the food from Mel Meo and Phil's Grill was terrific and Calusa Heritage Day 2009 was a big success. The Calusa Heritage Trail hosted eight authors and storytellers: Ed Winn, Gene Tonkray, Tom Joseph, Roothee Gabay, DL Havlin, Robin Brown, Holly Moulder, and John and Mary Lou Missall all gave talks in the authors and storytellers tent.

Nine environmental and eco tour groups were represented, four exhibits from the Florida Museum of Natural History were tended by Donna Ruhl, Irv Quitmyer and museum staffers Melissa Ayvaz, Gypsy Price, Ryan Van Dyke, and Austin Bell, who all talked to the public about archaeology, archaeobotany, and zooarchaeology.

Keynote speaker Donna Ruhl spoke to a packed classroom about Florida's ancient canoes. Ancient Hands pottery was for sale, Artist Merald Clark was in attendance, SWFAS member John Beriault helped out Robin Brown with pottery technology, and workshops went on all day in fiber technologies with Dick Workman, lithics with Janelle Lowry, and atlatl throwing with David Lainko.

Dr Walker's Calusa Tasting Tent was a big hit, and lots of kids had fun with the children's activities cooked up by RRC volunteer Diane Maher. Check our website ([www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC)) for the date for Calusa Heritage Day 2010, and we'll hope to see you all there.

## Goats on Mound Key

From the 2/24/09 News-Press

### Landowner says he's not goading Lee commissioner with goats on Mound Key

By CHARLIE WHITEHEAD

Todd McGee has really got Ray Judah's goat.

Actually the goat — or goats, since there are 15 of them — are McGee's. It's where he's keeping them that has Lee County Commission Chairman Judah seeing red.

Judah learned this week through a local news story that McGee is now keeping goats on the last privately owned piece of Mound Key.

"I was so incensed with that photo I saw of Mound Key with goats on it," Judah said during Tuesday's commission meeting.

Judah twice mentioned McGee by name.

"It appears the property owner, to spite the county, has placed goats on extremely sensitive land environmentally and archeologically," he said. "You might as well drop a nuclear bomb."

Judah described McGee as "a spiteful property owner" as well as "shameful" and "despicable."

McGee said he's simply trying to make some use of property that's been in his family for generations.

"We're not trying to tweak anyone," said McGee. "I'm sad

to hear Ray said things against me. I told Ray a year ago if they weren't going to buy it we were going to start using it."

Grass doesn't grow there, McGee said, so you can't run horses or cows.

"We're trying to use our property to its highest and best use without damaging it," he said. "A heavy goat at best weighs 150 pounds. They don't eat grass. They eat only from about 3 inches high to what they can reach on their hind legs. The only other thing you can do out there is put in crops, and that disturbs the soil."

That would draw even more attention, attention McGee says he doesn't want.

Mound Key is a 175-acre island in the middle of Estero Bay. Archeologists believe it was the capital of the Calusa empire before the Spanish arrived in Florida in the 1500s. Its very name comes from the huge mounds the Calusa built there.

Later the island was owned by the Koreshans, Cyrus Teed's band of hollow-Earthers whose legacy is kept alive at the Koreshan State Historic Site in Estero. The Koreshans donated most of it, along with the park land, in 1961.

A few small parcels remained in private hands, however. The state bought most in the 1990s, but McGee's, in his family he says since 1914, remains.

The state made a try at buying the 9 acres the McGees

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## Digital Archaeology: Giant Shoulders

*By Jack Harvey*

“If I have seen farther than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.” Sir Isaac Newton said this, but if you stand on the shoulders of Google, you learn Albert Einstein said it too. Another source claims it originated in the twelfth century with Bernard of Chartres. Still another credits eleventh century monk John of Salisbury. But perhaps their real genius was in finding giant shoulders to stand on.

There was a time when finding giant shoulders required traveling to a great center of learning such as Ancient Greece to study with Socrates, Plato or Aristotle. Libraries hardly existed, perhaps one per nation, so knowledge mostly spread like folklore. By the fifteenth century one of the greatest centers of learning of the western world, Cambridge University, had a library of only 122 books. Then Gutenberg’s printing press appeared a few years later and literacy started spreading because suddenly all students had books. Giant shoulder access had improved a giant step and only a century later, Galileo read of a Dutch invention, the telescope. He built one of sufficient power to show the satellites of Jupiter and unseat Earth as the center of the universe.

Over four centuries since, access has steadily improved through incremental improvements in printing and paper production. In the twentieth century, it rose to a zenith with thousands of new books and periodicals each year and copy counts in the millions.

Then near the start of the twenty-first century, giant shoulder access improved by another giant step with the advent of the Internet. It is causing another sudden change in access to information, comparable to the change initiated by the printing press 600 years ago. The printing press eliminated the requirement to travel for months to view knowledge from giant shoulders; instead you could read books at your local library. Today, you browse the Internet, viewing from giant shoulders at the speed of light.

The need for a long range high speed data intercommunication network was well established by the commercial success of telegrams, cablegrams, stock market tickers, teletypes and facsimile machines. But high cost was a serious obstacle and these early schemes simply transmitted text messages (often garbled) and poor graphics. Yet demand for electrical mail brought many competing services to market.

So when laser/fiber optics communication and computer cost barriers plummeted, there was an avalanche of business mergers and technical developments that brought a rapidly evolving Internet now linking well over a billion people, including nearly every working archaeologist on the planet.

This means that when you find a puzzling or remarkable artifact on a dig, you can immediately take several digital camera color photos of it and e-mail them to an archaeologist for identification or comment. This is not some future dream, this view from giant shoulders is ready today. And it

returns capabilities lost when Gutenberg’s books displaced traveling to Greece to study with Aristotle: Interaction and Collaboration.

The interaction and collaboration possibilities given us by the Internet are new and strange, and understandably some sciences are slow to exploit them. No longer is it necessary to be co-located with peers and advisors at a university, or travel across the continent to attend a conference. E-mail is just the iceberg tip of speedy communication the Internet offers. Bulletin boards, message boards, newsgroups, Usenet forums, electronic conferencing and even chat rooms and text messaging are all powerful new digital tools for group interaction and collaboration. Yes, many are silly, vulgar trash. But their content and tone is controlled by the collaboration participants and managers. Professionals can hold professional-level discussions and conferences.

It’s important to distinguish between the chat room model and electronic conferencing systems on the Internet. Chat rooms offer little more than party-line phone conversations. All participants in a discussion must be present simultaneously. Conversely, electronic conferencing software provides a permanent record and time for critically considered responses. It is not unusual for an Internet forum discussion topic by a group scattered over a continent or a hemisphere to last for weeks or months, around the clock. Any member can post a comment or new information at any time.

One nation-wide forum that I attended for many years has discussions continuously active more than two decades, still available for review and new thoughts. Several participants have died, but their words persist.

This permanency attribute of a well managed Internet forum is ideally suited to scholarly collaboration somewhat like that between students and professors in a university anthropology department. Facial expressions and tone of voice are missing of course, but on the other hand the profoundly deaf and physically disabled people such as physicist Stephen Hawking are equal colleagues and there is something to be said for minimizing emotional content in an intellectual discussion. The written record is priceless.

Not surprisingly, most Internet forums are computer-oriented probably because computer experts are already adept at using keyboards and adhering to software rules. Astronomers and physicists are also early adopters, for similar reasons. But archaeologists and anthropologists along with all the social sciences will catch up rapidly. When Gutenberg made books affordable, most people had to learn to read to use those powerful new tools. We are now at that stage with the new Internet tool.

Newton said, “...I have stood on the shoulders of giants.” Note the plural. Not just one giant, but several. Finding giant shoulders to stand on remains an issue. We’ll search for solutions next time.

Just *a reminder from the Treasurer* that annual membership dues are due January 1st. So, if you have not yet paid yours, we hope you will renew soon and save us sending dues notices. Each membership is important!

## Goats -- from Page 2

own, too. The county Conservation 2020 program tried to buy it in 2006, but the \$500,000 offered was well short of the \$5 million the McGees said it was worth.

Conservation 2020 buys land strictly for its environmental value, however. The fact that archeologists called the island “a treasure trove” — of artifacts, not gold — and pushed hard for the purchase carried little weight.

“We said if they don’t want to buy it fine, we’ll use it,” McGee said. “We’re using our property.”

When Judah brought the goats up Tuesday, Commissioner Brian Bigelow speculated McGee was looking to pressure the county with publicity. McGee said he actually asked the weekly paper that wrote about the goats this week not to.

“We didn’t ask for all this publicity,” he said. “I was afraid someone was going to go and steal them.”

McGee said he has a different worry now - that an environmental terrorist will knock down the fences on the island and blame the goats for being on public land.

“I don’t know where he’s coming from,” McGee said of Judah. “I don’t think anyone knows where he’s coming from.”

Judah said McGee was showing “extreme disrespect” for the community, but Commissioner Frank Mann stepped to his defense.

“My effort here would be to temper,” he said. “I’ve known the McGee family all my life. They’ve been here since the Spanish. I believe it’s grossly unfair to characterize the McGee family as totally irresponsible. There are some fine people in that clan.”

McGee was thankful for the defense, noting that Mann was in his mother’s Cub Scout troop as a child.

“It seems like the only problem we have is people who came here recently,” he said. “If he said anything derogatory that’s not right. I’m not a political figure and he shouldn’t do that from the bully pulpit. Maybe Ray’s more used to dealing with sheep.”

## About SWFAS

### *The Directorate:*

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

### *Trustees:*

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

### *SWFAS Committees:*

*Field - John Beriault  
Lab - Jack Thompson  
Hospitality - volunteer welcome!  
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).*

## March 2009 Newsletter

**The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society**  
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