



Vol. 25 No. 11

December 2009

Sunday, December 13 -- *NOT* Saturday, December 5!! Field Trip to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Big Cypress

The date has changed for the December field trip to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation from Saturday, December 5 to Sunday, December 13. Meet at the museum at 10 a.m. for a 10:30 a.m. tour and plan to bring a bag lunch.

On our guided tour of the museum and grounds we will learn about the culture, artifacts and history of the Seminole people. We will also view the temporary exhibits *The Randle/Sheffield Collection: Life Along the Tamiami Trail in the 1940s and 1950s* and *Cattle Keepers: The Heritage of Seminole Cattle Ranching*.

The museum includes a boardwalk into a 60-acre cypress dome to the "living village," an authentic Seminole Indian Village. Ah-

Tah-Thi-Ki also houses an artifact conservation lab and historical collections of the Seminole Tribe. More information on the museum can be found at www.ahththiki.com.

After the tour we will eat our picnic lunches. Alternatively, there are some restaurant options in the area.

NOTE: The drive to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki on the Big Cypress Reservation may take more than two hours depending on where you are driving from, so please plan accordingly! The field trip will be our December SWFAS meeting.

Any questions, please call Matt Betz (239/285-1190) or Katie Betz (239/784-3014 or e-mail travelkatie21@hotmail.com). See you there! *See Page 4 for map and directions.*



November SWFAS: Precolumbian Life in the Lake Okeechobee Region

By Tom Franchino

On November 18, 2009 Gregory Mount kindly appeared at the November general meeting of SWFAS and spoke on the Belle Glade Culture and people. Gregory possesses a M.A. from Florida Atlantic University, however he no longer "does archaeology", and rather he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Hydro Geology.

The Formative Belle Glade period began about 2,500 years ago. The Belle Glade culture was centered in the

Lake Okeechobee basin. However the actual boundaries of the sphere of influences expand far beyond the basin of the lake, extending nearly to Kissimmee in the North. In addition ten sites are attributed to the Belle Glade Culture in coastal southwest Florida according to the State of Florida site maps.

The study of the Belle Glade people and their culture are

See Lake Okeechobee on Page 4

REGISTRATION FORM
2010 Florida Anthropological Society Meeting
May 7-8, 2010
Historic Fort Myers, Florida

Name (please type or print): _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Work phone: _____ Home or cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

FAS member? Yes _____ No _____ Chapter Affiliation: _____

1. Full Registration (until April 7, 2010*) _____ \$50
 Student registration (until April 7, 2010*) _____ \$30

2. FAS Reception at Mound House _____ Free
 Friday Evening, May 7, 2010, 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.
 FAC Stewards of Heritage Awards Presentation
 Bus departs from Harborside, Downtown Fort Myers

3. FAS Banquet in Historic Fort Myers _____ \$50
 Saturday evening, May 8, 2010
 Keynote speaker: Dr. Jerald T. Milanich

4. Workshop on Flatbed scanner use for artifact imagery, led by Louis Tesar _____ Free
 Friday Afternoon, 3:30p.m. -6:00p.m.
 Seven Seas, Southwest Regional FPAN Center, Fort Myers Beach

5. Calusa Heritage Trail, Randell Research Center at Pineland _____ \$15
 Sunday Morning, May 10, 9:00-Noon
 Bus Departs from Harborside, Downtown Fort Myers

6. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Big Cypress Seminole Reservation _____ \$20
 Sunday, May 10, 9:00a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 Bus Departs from Harborside, Downtown Fort Myers
 (includes box lunch)

Registration and payment due by April 7, 2010

7. Donations to FAS 2010 Annual Meeting are most welcome. Thank you! \$ _____

8. Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mail form with check payable to SWFAS to:

Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

Attn: FAS 2010 Conference

P.O. Box 9965, Naples, FL 34101

E-mail questions to: theresa@fortmyersbeachfl.gov

* For on-site registration, \$5 will be added to the conference registration fee.

2010 FAS Annual Meeting To Be Hosted by SWFAS

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) is excited to host the 62nd annual FAS meeting on May 7-9, 2010 at the Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers. Accommodations for FAS 2010 will be at the new Hotel Indigo, just a block from the Harborside Event Center and a short walk to the Caloosahatchee River. The Hotel Indigo is a 67-room boutique hotel that opened in 2009, with a bar, restaurant and rooftop pool and fitness center located at 1520 Broadway, Fort Myers, FL 33901. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel at 877-270-1389 or www.hotelindigo.com/fortmyersfl. Special conference room rates for FAS attendees start at \$99 a night for Thursday and Friday and \$89 on Saturday, plus applicable taxes. Street parking is available at no cost or \$14 per night in the parking garage. Please mention the Florida Anthropological Society room block when calling for reservations. Room rates are held through April 7, 2010.

Friday, May 7: Meetings for FAS, FAC and FPAN boards, committees and membership are scheduled for Friday morning and afternoon in Harborside Event Center meeting rooms. On Friday afternoon, Louis Tesar of the Bureau of Archaeological Research will present a workshop on how to prepare high quality digital images of artifacts for publications, posters, and presentations using a flatbed scanner. The workshop will be held at the historic Seven Seas building at Newton Park in Fort Myers Beach, the new home of the Southwest Regional Center of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. The Friday evening reception will be at the Mound House on Fort Myers Beach with an

If you would like to volunteer to help with FAS 2010, we need you! Please call (239-784-3014) or e-mail (katies-betz@gmail.com) Katie Betz and let her know.

opportunity to view the newly completed walk-in shell mound exhibit.

Saturday, May 8: Papers and posters will be presented morning and afternoon at Harborside Event Center. The deadline for abstracts and poster proposals is February 12, 2010. Vendors with books and other wares will be available at the event center. Lunch is on your own on Saturday and many small restaurants are nearby, or pick up a sandwich and stroll by the river. The FAS Annual Business Meeting and FAS New Board Meeting will follow the paper sessions on Saturday. The Saturday night banquet will feature speaker Dr. Jerald T. Milanich, Curator Emeritus in Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Please sign up for the banquet when you register by April 7, 2010. Field trips to sites including the Randell Research Center at Pineland and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum are planned for Sunday, May 9.

Any questions or concerns? Contact: Theresa Schober at (239) 765-0865 or theresa@fortmyersbeachfl.gov.

The registration form is enclosed within this newsletter. Please observe the deadlines and contact SWFAS at the above mailing and e-mail addresses with any questions concerning these deadlines and possible extensions of the printed dates.

Florida Anthropological Society Student Paper Competition

Undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in degree-granting university programs are encouraged to compete for a prize. The student must submit a paper of original research that contributes to our understanding of Florida's history or prehistory. Contestants must submit three (3) copies of their paper and make an oral presentation at the FAS meeting. The oral presentation must be drawn from the written paper. The written paper cannot exceed 2,500 words and must be typed and double-spaced.

Postmark deadline for student papers is March, 15, 2010.

Student papers and oral presentations will be judged on writing quality, overall presentation, quality of arguments and supporting data, and contribution to our understanding of Florida's past. Prizes will be awarded at the awards ceremony during the Saturday evening banquet.

A three-person committee will judge the papers using the following criteria:

I Written Presentation

- Organization of paper: Must be clearly written in a coherent, logical and organized format
- Development of ideas/thoroughness of research: Must demonstrate substantive knowledge of topic
- Significance of research / contribution to the field

II Oral Presentation

- Organization of presentation: Must present ideas in an organized and coherent format
- Communication skills: Must articulate and express ideas clearly and intelligibly
- Appropriate and effective use of technology, if appropriate

All students entering the competition must complete and submit the meeting registration form by February 12, 2010 accompanied by a check for the \$30 registration fee payable to SWFAS.

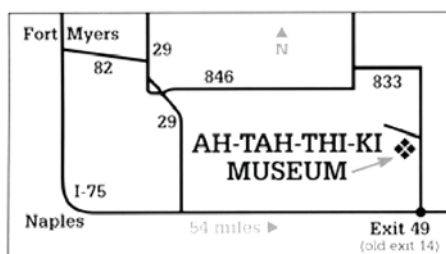
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki -- from Page 1



Alternatively, from Ft. Myers/North Ft. Myers, take route 80 east of LaBelle and make a right turn on County Road 833 (look for the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation sign). Follow 833 south and you'll come to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki on the right.

Directions from Naples/Ft. Myers:

Take I-75 S. to Exit 49. Continue roughly 17 miles into the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. The museum will be on your left at West Boundary Road. Museum parking is directly across the street from the museum entrance. The museum address is 34725 West Boundary Rd., Clewiston, FL 33440.



map not to scale

A nearby restaurant for lunch is Swamp Water Cafe, about two miles from the museum. You can get a sandwich there for \$7.50. They also have a soup and salad bar. http://www.swampsafari.net/water_cafe.html

SWFAS 2010 Nominations for Officers & Trustees

Nominating committee: Charlie Strader, Tom Franchino

- General membership to vote at January's monthly meeting, which serves as SWFAS annual business meeting.
- Nominations from the floor can still be accepted until vote.

OFFICERS:

President: Annette Snapp

1st VP: Tom Franchino

2nd VP: James Oswald

Recording Secretary: Kathryn Betz

Treasurer: Charlie Strader

Mbr. Sec: Charlie Strader

(Newsletter Editor, not a Board position: Karen Nelson)

TRUSTEES:

First year of 3 year term:

- Theresa Schober
- Steve Archer
- Matthew Betz
- John Beriault

Second year of 3 year term:

- Jack Thompson
- Betsy Perdichizzi
- Liz Clement

Last year of 3 year term:

- Rebecca Austin
- Alison Elgart

January 2010: Ann Cordell on St. Augustine Pottery

At the January 20 SWFAS meeting in Bonita Springs, Ann Cordell of the University of Florida's Florida Museum of Natural History will talk about her work with Kathleen Deagan on 16th century pottery from the Fountain of Youth Park Site in St. Augustine.

In "Paste Variability and Clay Resource Utilization in 16th Century Aboriginal Pottery from the Fountain of Youth Park Site, St. Augustine, Florida," Cordell will discuss her analysis of this early contact period Native American pottery. Several seasons of excavations at the Fountain of Youth Park site, under the direction of Kathleen Deagan, have yielded a diverse assemblage of early contact period Native American pottery. This pottery consists mainly of St. Johns wares, grit and sand-tempered possible San Marcos wares, and grog-

tempered San Pedro wares.

Pottery samples were selected from closed context 16th century deposits at the site for analysis. Technological and petrographic analyses were undertaken to document paste variability and resource differences or similarities among the categories. Local clay samples were analyzed for comparison.

Ann S. Cordell is a staff archaeologist at UF's Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, FL. She manages FLMNH's Ceramic Technology Laboratory and conducts pottery analyses for FLMNH curators. She has studied prehistoric and historic aboriginal pottery from Florida, the southeastern US, and the Caribbean, with a specialization in petrographic analysis.

SWFAS Newsletter by E-Mail

If you're online, you can get the SWFAS newsletter (with color photos!) sent to you as a PDF via e-mail. Many SWFAS members have already made the switch -- it saves quite a bit on printing and postage costs. If you would like to get the newsletter by e-mail, please note it on the sign-in sheet or let Charlie Strader, Theresa Schober or Karen Nelson know at the next meeting.

Lake Okeechobee -- from Page 1

largely neglected, with little research or literature existing. Their culture had developed huge earthworks and canals and an apparently complex society -- without agriculture. Fontaneda, while a captive of the Calusa wrote of his visits to the Belle Glade people. He reported that they lived in small hamlets of about twenty people each, scattered around the lake. Famous Belle Glade sites include Fort Center, Belle Glade Mound Midden, Big Tony's and the General Earthworks.

The Fort Center site is the largest Belle Glade site. It is open to the public within the Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area. Some of the artifacts found at Fort Center are the well known large carved wood eagle, the eye in hand metal medallions, and abstract woodpecker tablets. Fort Center consists of large earthworks such as the Charnel Platform, Mound A, Burial Mound B. The Charnel Platform, believed by some to have been an enclosure rather than a platform, burned to a large extent and collapsed. However, a very large number of skeletal remains survived the fire.

Big Tony's site is also very large, almost a kilometer across, and is located in a private agricultural field. The site is protected by the land owner and minimal analysis of the site exists.

The Boyer Survey commenced in 2007 substantially increased the existing data and analysis of the Belle Glade Culture. Rapidly dropping water levels in Lake Okeechobee led to reports of skeletal and archaeological remains suddenly appearing in the lake bed. The Boyer Survey is named after Boots Boyer who volunteered his time and airboats to allow for the survey. Prior to the survey four archaeological sites

were known to exist in Lake Okeechobee. As a result of the survey an additional thirty three sites were located. Many of these sites are located on Ritta Island and Kreamer Island. These islands or peninsulas exist on the southern rim of the lake, about five miles from each other.

Ritta Island is believed to be Glade I and Belle Glade II sites. No marine shell was found; however, a large amount of pottery and lithic material is found on these sites. An analysis of the lithic material reveals that its location originated from the Peace River to as far north as Georgia. Obviously a large trade network running north to south existed to acquire this material. Many sites were found on Kreamer Island, however these are believed to be Belle Glade III and Belle Glade IV. The Kreamer Island artifacts, however, are very different with very little pottery shards, and no lithic materials. Kreamer Island sites contained a very large amount of worked marine shell from both the east and west coasts of Florida. Mysteriously, no shell blanks or debitage was found, only finished shell tools, numerous beautiful shell plummets, pendants and gorgets were also found on the Kreamer Island sites. Apparently a large eastward to westward trade network existed from Kreamer Island.

The termination of the Belle Glade Culture is also enigmatic. It is known that significant hydrologic change occurred at the same time, 800 – 1300 A.D. This water level drop resulted in a substantial reduction of flowering plants and an increase in pine trees. Perhaps the drop in water level resulted in movement of the people to the coastal areas of Florida.

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).

December 2009 Newsletter

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