



Vol. 26 No. 3

March 2010

March 17 at SWFAS: Irish Settlement & Identity in 19th Century Texas: A Historical Archaeology

At the March 17 SWFAS meeting (incidentally on St. Patrick's Day), Julie Richko Labate, a Ph.D. candidate at University College in Dublin, Ireland, will talk about Irish settlement in Texas. The talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Bonita Springs Community House. Join us at 7 for refreshments and socializing.

This paper focuses on one of the most interesting migrations from Ireland in the pre-Famine era: the migration in c. 1830 of Catholic families from northwest and southeast Ireland to the then-Mexican province of Texas. The Mexican government, worried about American interest in Texas, instituted a land-granting scheme to have the province settled, and four Irish-born empresarios (land agents) orchestrated the participation of the Irish families in the process. Settled in the Coastal Bend just south of Houston, the Irish families soon shifted political allegiance from Mexico to the short-lived Texas Republic and then to America; many of the settlers actually died at the Alamo.

The history of the Texan-Irish is well known, but no significant work has been carried out on their archaeology. Archaeology has potential to illuminate aspects of identity formation and cultural experience that would not otherwise be known or understood.

Julie Richko Labate, M.A., R.P.A., is a PhD candidate with the University College Dublin in Dublin, Ireland. Julie earned her bachelor's from Florida Atlantic University and master's degree from Illinois State University in



Julie Labate

anthropology and archaeology, respectively.

While attaining her PhD, she is currently living in South Florida and working as the Tribal Archaeologist for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Julie is responsible for the archaeological efforts conducted on all tribally owned land. Julie's interest in identity brings her into contact with theories of ethnicity of gender construction and of cultural psychology and selfhood. Her research is an ongoing investigation of nineteenth-century Irish 'at home' in Ireland and overseas using a theoretically-informed archaeological analysis of its material culture(s) and domestic space(s).

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.

Archaeology Day at the Collier County Museum -- March 20

On March 20, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Collier County Museum will host Archaeology Day at the museum in conjunction with the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) and the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS).

There will be short talks, hosted hourly, with speakers to include:

- Theresa Schober of Mound House at Fort Myers Beach, speaking on "Making Mound House," preserving and interpreting a Calusa Indian Mound;
- John Beriault of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy will present on early archaeologists and the northern Ten Thousand Islands;
- Annette Snapp of Florida Gulf Coast University will discuss probability maps and archaeology; and
- Steve Archer of the Florida Public Archaeology Network will present an introduction to the new regional FPAN center located in Fort Myers Beach.

The Collier Museum's Craighead Archaeology Laboratory will be open for visitation, and FPAN will have information and activities available throughout the day. Additional permanent exhibits on Southwest Florida's prehistory and history are on display at the museum.

The Florida Public Archaeology Network's Southwest Regional Center is hosted by the Town of Fort Myers Beach and is located at Newton Beach Park on Estero Boulevard. For more information, visit www.flpublicarchaeology.org. The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society hosts regular monthly meetings in Bonita Springs, and can be found at <http://www.explorationsinc.com/swfl-archaeology/index.html>

The Collier Museum is located at 3301 E. Tamiami Trail in Naples. For more information call the museum at 239/ 252-8476 or the Southwest Regional FPAN office at 239/765-0202 ext. 152.

Calusa Heritage Day at Randell -- March 13

The Randell Research Center's fifth annual Calusa Heritage Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 13810 Waterfront Drive, Pineland. The event focuses on regional archaeology, history, and ecology. Art, music, and replicative technologies, as avenues to learning/education about Pineland's heritage, are included. Activities for children and adults alike will be provided, and food and beverages will be available.

The day-long event (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) will take place at the Pineland archaeological site complex (13810 Waterfront Drive, Pineland) and will be centered around the Pavilion/Classroom and Calusa Heritage Trail. Visitors can expect a variety of activity, exhibit, and information stations located in these areas in a festival format as well as site tours.

Featured speaker this year is George Burgess, internationally recognized ichthyologist and coordinator of the International Shark Attack File. His 2 p.m. lecture is entitled, "Smalltooth Sawfish: America's First Federally

Endangered Marine Fish."

Archaeological exhibits by the Florida Museum of Natural History will include work by Dr. Karen Walker, Donna Ruhl, Melissa Ayvaz, Ryan Van Dyke, Andrea Palmiotto, Gypsy Price, Austin Bell and Ann Cordell. The archaeological excavations on Mound 5 will be open for everyone to see.

Hands-on Activities/Special Guests will include: Robin Brown, Dick Workman, Rick Tully, John Beriault, David Meo, Merald Clark, Hermann Trappman, Kelgin Knives, Terry Powell/Tools From The Earth, Tin Fins, Felix M. Rodriguez. Authors: Authors: Gerald and Loretta Hausman, Roothie Gabay, Mary Kaye Stevens, Marsha Perlman. Vendors: Native Plant Sale, Ancient Hands Pottery, Tooth Fairy Shark Teeth, GAEA Guides. Food will be provided by Mel Meo and Co. plus Calusa Tastings -- free samples of foods eaten by the Calusa Indians -- hosted by Karen Walker. There will be information booths set up by local groups.

Digital Archaeology Seeing More

By Jack Harvey

The microscope and telescope broke barriers and entirely changed our view of our bodies, this world and our place in the universe. The stereo microscope has become vital for pottery sherd investigation but even it doesn't show us light our eyes can't perceive. So there may be much more to learn if we can just figure out how to see it.

Astronomers are leading the way, building telescopes that form digital databases of heavenly emanations human eyes can't make out. Then computers turn these databases into visible images by arbitrarily assigning colors that discriminate between kinds of emanations. They can then be displayed on a computer monitor or printed so that we are able to see the unseeable. This is

sometimes misleadingly called *false color*.

What are these invisible emanations? The famous Hubble Space Telescope was recently upgraded to sense some of them. The resulting spectacularly colored images were widely publicized by NASA. Instead of showing what an astronaut might see if Hubble had an eyepiece, it can sense emanations in the infrared and ultraviolet bands, quite invisible to human eyes. Moreover, these emanations can indicate individual elements such as nitrogen, oxygen and hydrogen revealing chemicals thousands of light years away.

The visible light spectrum can be compared to a single octave on a piano keyboard with each note (A through G) roughly corresponding to a color of the rainbow. Historically

February SWFAS: Fort Shackelford Location Project

By Annette Snapp

At our February meeting, SWFAS welcomed Ms. Hope Hawkins, who works for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in tandem with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. She shared with us an account of the fieldwork conducted last summer on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation which involved locating Fort Shackelford, a Third Seminole War era military installation. Along with Hope's 1 ½ years of experience at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, she has experience as an archaeological field technician in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky.

Hope provided a brief overview of the responsibilities of the THPO's office which range from maintaining the Seminole Site File (a comprehensive list of sites found on Seminole reservations) and documenting historic buildings to the clearing of 400 on-reservation projects per year. The office is also responsible for conducting compliance review for projects conducted on the ancestral lands of the Seminole in the Southeast U.S. Their responsibilities are broad and numerous.

The Fort Shackelford Location Project was undertaken as a joint venture between the THPO's office and Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) which conducted an archaeological field school. FGCU students received experience in survey work, using state-of-the-art GPS equipment, excavation work and hands-on contact as well as evening lectures that explored themes of THPO-related work. This is the first time the Seminole Tribe of Florida has welcomed a non-Native joint archaeological research project.

Fort Shackelford was constructed in February through April of 1855, probably consisting of a blockhouse with picketing, all of which was likely made of pine. Its location was at the edge of the Everglades and the edge of Big Cypress Swamp, clearly on Seminole lands. The intention of this fort was to serve as an intrusion and as surveillance of Seminole activities. In June of the same year, it was abandoned by the soldiers due to flooding and the soldiers retreated to Fort Myers.

In December of the same year, Lieutenant Hartsuff and a

small group of soldiers revisited the site of Fort Shackelford, finding that it had been burnt to the ground. While roaming the area during this reconnaissance, historical accounts refer to the soldiers destroying some of Billy Bowlegs' banana plants and that retaliatory actions on the part of the Seminole sparked the Third Seminole War. Evidently, Fort Shackelford (and its demise) played a significant role in the renewal of hostilities between federal troops and the Seminoles.

Nearly 100 years later, in 1943, surveyor D.G. Copeland placed a concrete monument with a brass disk affixed to the top of it that identified what he believed was the location of Fort Shackelford in the Big Cypress Seminole Indian of Florida Reservation. The existing marker is believed to be one of 4 that were placed to outline the fort area. Since the Third Seminole War, this property has been used as a Seminole hunting camp, agricultural fields, and a pasture. Some push-piles indicating clearing and leveling of the land are evident today.

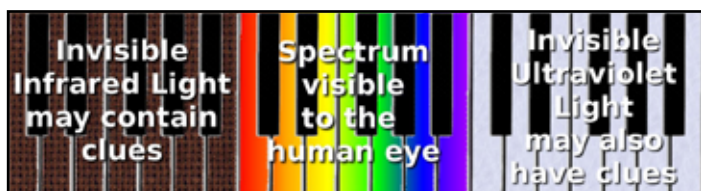
Excavation work undertaken for the field school included (6) 2 meter by 2 meter units which were carefully hand-excavated. Most significantly, the 2 units closest to the Copeland marker revealed a cut nail (style manufactured from 1835-1890), a possible rifle butt plate, a couple of buckshot and a mystery iron object. All in all, the evidence suggests that the concrete marker for Fort Shackelford is accurate. Some of the items recovered during this project appear to date to the right time period and suggest both construction activity (nail possibly associated with fort building) and military activity (ammunition).

Evidence of historic use of the property was also discovered in the push-up piles which resulted from land clearing. There, shovel tests revealed historical ceramics and glass, some of which appears to date to the Fort Shackelford period.

During the archaeological field school, Seminole Broadcasting developed two newsclips about it, highlighting the joint venture. And the project was considered a very positive experience for all involved.

Digital Archaeology -- from left

our vision has probably been our most important tool for identifying and evaluating possible archaeological material. Color and patterns on surfaces are much of what vision tells us. The color strongly depends on the chemical and physical characteristics of artifact surfaces and this varies from point to point causing spots and striations.



Light Spectrum as a Piano Keyboard. We can see only one octave. What's in the others?

Yet human eyes are woefully limited in identifying colors. In fact, we sense only three defined by the three kinds of cones in our retinas. All others are simply blends of these three. So frequently an object's shape rather than its color is the most important clue to its function and history. But chemists using spectroscopy are able to measure the amounts of individual elements in material. Why might this be useful in Florida archaeology?

The decorations on potsherds are significant indicators, but of what? A sherd may be found in one location but the pot may have been imported by interregional trade. Or the potter may have migrated from another region through marriage or warfare. It might be helpful to know which moved: *the potter or the pot*. One way to help decide that is to learn where the clay came from. Its

Continued on Page 6

REGISTRATION FORM
2010 Florida Anthropological Society Meeting
May 7-9, 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 9, 9:00-Noon
 Bus Departs from Harborside, Downtown Fort Myers

6. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Big Cypress Seminole Reservation _____ \$20
 Sunday, May 9, 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

* Late Registration, \$5 will be added to the conference registration fee.

NOTE: You can also register on-line at: <http://www.fasweb.org/meeting.htm>

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 opportunity to view the newly completed walk-

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

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 -- Deadline March 15

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.

Digital Archaeology -- from Page 3

color may contain clues to its origin.

Imagine that our ears could only hear notes within a single piano keyboard octave. We would be deaf to notes in the several higher and lower octaves. In addition to limited music, we might be unable to hear the twittering of wrens or the growls of a bear. This may also be how our eyes are seeing archaeological specimens. We just aren't hearing the whole tune.

Spectroscopy is a well-established science that measures electromagnetic emanations precisely, usually to help identify the chemical content of a sample. Our eyes can't approach the precision or range that spectrometers achieve since eyes only have three kinds of color sensors. Off the shelf digital cameras are similarly limited (red, green, blue) since they just mimic human eye performance. So we need a new kind of "camera" able to distinguish many more colors. We could start by sensing the other colors (orange, yellow, violet) too. But why stop there? Like the piano keyboard black keys, let's sense in-between pitches (colors) as well. Why not go for broke and sense, say, 50 different color shades between red and violet? Then, let's also sense 50 shades of infrared and 50 of ultraviolet for a total of 150 "colors".

Today we wouldn't know what to make of this data

deluge. But spectroscopy may hold the key. The objective is to augment current methods of ceramic paste (clay) identification (such as sponge siliceous spicule classification) with a method that's quick and low cost. Since 150 "colors", including infrareds and ultraviolets, are far beyond what our eyes can sense, a computer will do the classification by comparing the digital data with a database of clays in the region.

Yes, this is a wild dream about a future digital archaeology tool. But Galileo wasn't planning to overturn accepted truth that the earth was the center of the universe when he pointed his telescope at Jupiter and discovered moons circling it.

He was simply Seeing More.

Welcome New SWFAS Members

Ana Flynn from Fort Myers

Meghan Prendergast from FGCU

Keith Kurzka from Naples

About SWFAS

The Directorate:

President - Annette Snapp

1st VP - Tom Franchino

2nd VP - James Oswald

Recording Secretary - Kathryn Betz

Treasurer - Charlie Strader

Membership Secretary - Charlie Strader

Trustees:

Steve Archer, Rebecca Austin, Matthew Betz,

Liz Clement, Alison Elgart, Betsy Perdichizzi,

Theresa Schober, Jack Thompson

SWFAS Committees:

Field - vacant

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 2010 Newsletter

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

P.O. Box 9965

Naples, FL 34101