



Vol. 27 No. 6

June 2011

John Beriault: Archaeology in Florida's Last Frontier At SWFAS June 15

At the June 15 SWFAS meeting John Beriault will speak on "A 10,000 Island Overview: Archaeology in Florida's Last Frontier". His presentation will discuss work done by SWFAS in the early to mid-1980s at Addison Key and Chokoloskee Island. Board member Matthew Betz used some of the information toward his master's dissertation and helped process the ceramic data along with the SWFAS volunteers in the Craighead Lab.

John has served as president of SWFAS, the Collier County Historical Society, the Naples Chapter of the Florida Plant Society, and the Florida Anthropological Society. John has received the William C. Lazarus Award from FAS, the Green Palmetto Award from the Florida Native Plant Society, and the Craighead Award from SWFAS. John works an archaeologist, cartographer, geobotanist, and historian for Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc.

Annette Snapp Named Director of FPAN Southwest Florida Region

Congratulations to SWFAS President Annette Snapp, PhD, who was selected as the new director of the Southwest Florida Region of the Florida Public Archaeology Network. The FPAN office is housed on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University and its mission is to promote and facilitate the stewardship, public appreciation, and value of Florida's archaeological heritage through regional centers, partnerships, and community engagement.

Annette said, "this concludes three years of serving as the Colloquium Coordinator for Florida Gulf Coast University. I am looking forward to working more directly in my chosen field of archaeology!"

Visitor's Day June 11: See the 2011 FGCU Archaeological Field School

SWFAS has been given a special opportunity to visit the 2011 FGCU Archaeological Field School on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Meet at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Parking Lot, 34725 West Boundary Road, Clewiston, FL at 9:45 AM. Tour at the site will run from 10-11:30 AM. While you are there you may want to visit the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. For directions call 877-902-1113 or visit www.ahtahthiki.com. The museum is open from 9-5.

FPAN to Bring GPR to Shell Island Cemetery June 24

Friday, June 24 at 2 p.m. FPAN will lend its expertise in using a GPR (ground penetrating radar) to search for possible unrecorded burials at the Shell Island/Kirkland Cemetery. Matt Schuld and Rich Estabrook of FPAN and Matthew Betz of SWFAS will be on hand to assist Steve Bertone of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve use the GPR to help identify unmarked graves. Volunteers to help with the process are welcome. Come with plenty of questions and a keen interest in seeing this 21st-century non-invasive archaeology. To reach Shell Island go South on Collier Blvd. (CR-951) towards Marco, turn right on Shell Island Road, and follow the road to the visitor parking. The cemetery is a short walk from the parking lot. Contact Matt Schuld of FPAN if you have questions at (239) 590-1476 or Rookery Bay at (239) 417-6310.

SWFAS Board Writes Letter to County Commission

Letter Against the Destruction of Archaeologically Significant Site on Chokoloskee Island

In April, 2011 a developer bulldozed Mamie Street in Chokoloskee and fenced off access to a public road, historic Ted Smallwood's Store and neighboring properties. The bulldozing destroyed part of the pre-historic shell mound and was done without any archaeological survey or monitoring. The SWFAS Board sent a letter to the Collier County Board of County Commission which is reprinted here. At this time the issue of the destroyed archaeological site has not been resolved and the access to Smallwood's is still blocked. The developer has now hired an archaeologist to monitor further construction.

May 9, 2011

Collier County Board of County Commission

Hon. Commissioner Jim Coletta
 Hon. Commissioner Fred W. Coyle
 Hon. Commissioner Tom Henning
 Hon. Commissioner Georgia A. Hiller, Esq.
 Hon. Commissioner Donna Fiala

CC: Collier County Board of Historic Preservation

Re: Destruction of Archaeologically Significant Site on Chokoloskee

Dear Commissioners:

We the Board of Directors for the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) are writing to express our concern over the destruction of a significant archaeological site in Chokoloskee. We applaud the efforts being taken in finding a solution to the problem of access to Ted Smallwood's Store. However, we are gravely concerned that there has been no discussion of monitoring or mitigating the damage from the demolition of Mamie Street to the Native American and historical cultural resources located in the ground below the street and buildings. Chokoloskee is a prehistoric shell midden that was created by Native Americans. Action must be taken to ensure Florida-Georgia Grove developers are complying with state and county ordinances concerning preservation of archaeological sites in Collier County.

As described in a letter to Assistant County Attorney Steven Williams from Archaeologist Bob Carr: "beginning Saturday, April 30, major portions of the shell midden and Indian Mound have been destroyed to create a basin for excavated sediments dredged from the adjacent bay. Damage caused to the site is irreversible. All ground-distributing activities should have been preceded by an archaeological assessment and monitoring as required by both county and state permitting agencies. Chokoloskee Island is designated by the state as 8CR1, one of Florida's most significant archaeological sites and is recorded as having documented human burials. Any disturbance of human remains is subject to Florida Statute 872.05, the Unmarked Human Burials Act. Future ground disturbing work on this site should cease until a proper archaeological assessment is completed."

We urge the County Commission to act swiftly to ensure the damage completed is documented and that there is no further unmonitored ground-disturbing activity on this archaeological site. SWFAS offers its services to assist or advise the County to make sure this significant site is not lost forever.

New Excavations at Pineland

Melissa Ayvaz Hopes to Find Proof of a Powerful Hurricane



University of Florida student Melissa Ayvaz uses a chopstick to loosen the sandy matrix while probing for fragile shell, bone and artifacts hidden from sight before troweling the area.

On May 18, Melissa Ayvaz began a new excavation on Citrus Ridge at the Pineland Site Complex at Randell Research Center. The dig is expected to last until June 18. The study is intended to test the hypothesis that about 1700 years ago at least one high-intensity hurricane impacted Pineland's landscape and its people. The results will form a part of Melissa's master's thesis in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida, chaired by Bill Marquardt.

The findings from a nearby 1992 excavation suggest that a powerful hurricane hit Pineland around A.D. 300. Storms occur over short time intervals, but – as Pine Islanders who lived here in 2004 well know – they can have both immediate and long-term effects on people's lives. The Calusa were no exception. Specifically, a thin sandy layer contained surf clam shells (some articulated), sea urchin remains, pen shells, and sea turtle bones, indicating animals that live in high-salinity habitats. Because the Pineland site is situated in an area of typically lower salinity, we reason that the animal remains must have been swept in from the barrier islands to the west due to a powerful storm surge. Overlying this layer of animal remains is a sand layer that may have been deposited by a second surge associated with the same storm. The source of the sand may have been the Citrus Ridge, so the current dig is designed to gain a better understanding of the Citrus Ridge deposits so they can be compared to those from the previous 1992 excavation.

Melissa will focus her analysis on faunal and sedimentological assemblages to tease out the subtle signatures that would characterize a storm surge. The excavations will proceed slowly and carefully in order to provide information at a scale and resolution rarely accessible to archaeologists.

The results of Melissa's investigation have the potential to provide information at a scale and resolution rarely accessible to archaeologists. As Melissa stated in her project proposal, "the possible implications of this research have relevance both within and beyond the Caloosahatchee region—ranging from topics of land use, ecology, local and global climate change, sea level fluctuations, resiliency and response to disaster".



Using a trowel, Melissa Ayvaz cleans the North profile while carefully avoiding dislodging a non-artifactual shell that extends into the wall. Excavation will continue through June 18 at the Randell Research Center.

The new excavation is located right next to the Calusa Heritage Trail. Visitors are welcome any day, Wednesdays through Saturdays, through June 18. Lab work on Tuesdays at the Ruby Gill House will involve washing and cataloging artifacts, following museum archival standards and guidelines.

Thank You, Karen!

SWFAS extends a special thank you to **Karen Nelson** who has faithfully produced the society's newsletter each month for more than six years. Her design expertise and writing excellence have elevated the newsletter to a truly professional level. We thank Karen for her dedication all these years!

SWFAS Newsletter by E-Mail

If you're online, you can get the SWFAS newsletter sent to you as a PDF via e-mail. Many SWFAS members have already made the switch, saving SWFAS printing and postage costs. To get the newsletter by e-mail, please e-mail Charlie Strader (cesplor@aol.com) or let Charlie, Annette Snapp or Katie Betz know at the next meeting.

Mark Your Calender!

June 11: FGCU Field School Visitor's Day
 June 15: SWFAS Meeting with speaker John Beriault
 June 24: FPAN brings GPR to cemetery at Shell Island
 July: Summer break - No SWFAS Meeting July or Aug.
 August 17: SWFAS Board Meeting only (no speaker)

Stay tuned for our fall speakers schedule starting in September!

About SWFAS

The Directorate:

President - Annette Snapp
 1st VP - Meghan Prendergast
 2nd VP - Alison Elgart
 Recording Secretary - Katie Betz
 Treasurer - Charlie Strader
 Membership Secretary - Charlie Strader

Trustees:

Paul Backhouse, Matthew Betz,
 Liz Clement, Tom Franchino, Jim Oswald,
 Matthew Schuld, Betsy Perdichizzi, Theresa
 Schober. Trustee Emeritus: John Beriault

SWFAS Committees:

Field - vacant
 Lab - Jack Thompson
 Hospitality - Meghan Prendergast, Katie Betz
 Newsletter - Katie Betz

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:
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 6:30 p.m. Regular meetings begin at 7:30 (refreshments served at 7).

June 2011 Newsletter

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society
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