



Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) November 2016 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by John Furey

DAVID SOUTHALL



On Wednesday November 16, 2016 David Southall was the SWFAS monthly presenter at the Collier County Museum in Naples. His talk on Plume Hunting and its Effects on Florida's Wading Birds was an excellent and highly informative lecture that started with the first trading in ostrich feathers by the Egyptians in the circum-Mediterranean and up to modern times. He feels that the plume trade was "the perfect storm" of fashion, technology, transportation and communication. Woman's fashions borrowed from the use of feathers in hats by the officer ranks where the feather connotated a high-status individual. Due to the use of hunting with

muzzle loading shotguns, the effects on the Florida bird populations that numbered in the billions, was minimal. The Civil War had displaced many Southerners and many had moved to Florida to start over. Bird hunting for feathers was a way to make a few dollars in a depressed economy for these people. The Civil War had created a huge industrial capacity in the North and these companies were looking to replace their loss of work making military uniforms and found that dressmaking could fit that bill.



At the same time color printing presses had advanced greatly and the railroads had expanded all across the North. Sears, J C Penny and others created the mail order catalog business that was supported by the railroads ability to deliver the catalogs and finished goods all across the US. Meanwhile the technology in firearms advanced to where shotguns and smokeless powder shells were very cheap. The fashion industry advertised the use of feathers on hats and for many other uses which increased demand. As the price paid for feathers escalated, what had been a part time pursuit now became a full-time bird hunting job. Where before a person could shoot a few birds, now whole populations were decimated by organized teams. Additionally, birds were being shot while nesting at their rookeries and the next generation of birds were also being killed or allowed to die. Many people tried to halt this slaughter but it was ultimately the change in women's fashion away from the use of feathers that accomplished this. By then both State and Federal laws were being enacted to preserve the bird populations from extinction.

MOUND HOUSE VISIT

Don't forget the SWFAS visit to the Mound House on Estero Island (Ft. Myers Beach) on Saturday December 10th. E-mail John Furey at jffurey@charter.net to make your reservation and for the luncheon at Junkanoos on the Beach after the tour. The Mound House is the island's oldest standing structure and has recently been restored to its 1921 grandeur and is now open as a cultural and environmental learning center. The Mound House is a unique archaeological and historical site on Ft. Myers Beach located directly on Estero Bay and offers a variety of programs for local residents, visitors and groups. Experience this one of a kind museum that sits atop a 2,000-year-old Calusa Indian Shell Mound. Admission with a guided tour is \$15.00. Located at 451 Connecticut Street Ft. Myers Beach. The Mound House offers year round programs and their web site is www.moundhouse.org to view upcoming events.

SWFAS BOARD MEETING

The November Board Meeting will be held on November 30, 2016 at the home of Charlie Strader at 27655 Kent Road in Bonita Springs. We will be proposing new people for the 2017 Board and for officers.

THE ORTONA MOUND COMPLEX

The Ortona Mound is another local archaeological gem that few have visited. Located off SR 78 in Glades County at 1800 Chiaha Road it is close enough to make a nice day trip there to see the earthworks. On October 19th Nathan Lawes from the University of Florida gave a SWFAS sponsored talk on the monumental earthworks found around Lake Okeechobee. The Ortona site is one of the sites with large earthworks and canals that you can visit. Another nearby site with large earthworks is the Fort Center site. We are very fortunate to have Amy Bennet Williams writing for The News Press in Tropicalia as she covers many local subjects related to archaeology and anthropology and in January of this year she penned the attached article on the Ortona site. Articles like this raise the awareness of archaeology and its value to local people

The Ortona Site has been known since a visit by surveyors MacKay and Blake in 1839 as they mapped the Caloosahatchee River and the two canals from the site that connected to the river. The canals were four feet deep and ten feet wide. Many others visited the site, however, there have been recent visits by archaeologists: John Griffen 1940, John Goggin 1944, H. Steven Hale 1989 and George Luer 1989 (a SWFAS member). 'In 1990-1991 a major excavation of Ortona was conducted by Robert Carr, David Dickel, Marilyn Mason, Ryan Wheeler and H. Steven Hale. The results of the excavation were published by The Florida Anthropologist entitled Special Issue: The Ortona Mound Complex Volume 48, Number 4 December 1995. I urge you to read this informative issue of the Florida Anthropologist for further information.

IN MEMORIUM JACK HARVEY



Jack and the other Lab Rats

We are very sorry about the loss of our good friend, Jack Harvey who passed away in October. Jack was a longtime member of SWFAS and was a “lab rat” in the Craighead Archaeology lab in the Collier County Museum.

He supported our archaeological research by photographing artifacts at sites supported/sponsored by SWFAS as well as in the lab. Jack was also our computer “guru”, and, as one of our most organized members, created and maintained many of the lab’s inventory lists and procedures.

Jack’s previous life (prior to retirement) was as a microwave engineer and later a software developer for Wall Street. But he confessed his favorite hobby was geology, and he joined SWFAS because it was the “closest thing” he could find to this interest in the Naples area. He capitalized on this by developing a series of articles for our newsletters titled “Geology Rules”. These provided fascinating geological information integrated into an archaeological context.

Jack will be missed very much by the Lab Rats and everyone in SWFAS.

2016 SWFAS LECTURE SERIES

DECEMBER OUTING

Saturday, December 10, 2016

9 am – 12 pm SWFAS Outing to the Mound House

Location – 451 Connecticut Avenue, Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931

Admission: Adults \$15, Includes a one-hour guided tour

12 pm – 2 pm Lunch at Junkanoos on the Beach



If you are planning to attend the Mound House tour and Luncheon please e-mail John Furey by November 18 with your name, the number of attendees and if you plan to go to only the tour or both the tour and luncheon at jffurey@charter.net.

IF YOU GO:

FROM THE SOUTH:

Take I-75 North to Alico Rd (Hwy 840). Take the County Hwy-840/Alico Rd exit, EXIT 128, toward San Carlos Park. Turn left onto County Hwy-840/Alico Rd. Go 3.66 miles, then turn right onto S Tamiami Trl/US-41 N/FL-45. Go 2.66 miles and turn left onto Ben C Pratt/6 Mile Cypress Pkwy/County Hwy-865. Continue to follow County Hwy-865. Go 1.23 miles and merge onto Summerlin Rd/County Hwy-869 via the ramp on the left. Go 3.64 miles, then turn left onto Pine Ridge Rd. Go 0.91 miles and turn left onto San Carlos Blvd/FL-865. Continue to follow FL-865. Go 4.34 miles and turn left onto Connecticut St. Go 0.31 miles and Mound House will be on the left.

FROM THE NORTH:

Take I-75 South toward Naples. Then take the County Hwy-876/Daniels Pkwy exit, EXIT 131, toward Cape Coral/SW Florida Int'l Airport. Go 0.33 miles and keep right to take the ramp toward Cape Coral/Edison College. Turn right onto Daniels Pkwy/County Hwy-876. Go 2.65 miles and then turn left onto Ben C Pratt/6 Mile Cypress Pkwy/County Hwy-865. Continue to follow County Hwy-865. Go 4.09 miles and then merge onto Summerlin Rd/County Hwy-869 via the ramp on the left. Go 3.64 miles and turn left onto Pine Ridge Rd. Go 0.91 miles, then turn left onto San Carlos Blvd/FL-865. Go 4.34 miles and turn left onto Connecticut St. Go 0.31 miles and Mound House will be on the left.

2017 SWFAS LECTURE SERIES

JANUARY MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 7:00 pm

Tragedy and Survival on the Early 19th-century Florida Gulf Coast: History and Archaeology of the Freedom Seeking Peoples Known as Black Seminoles

Dr. Uzi Baram

Location – Fort Myers Imaginarium, 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33916



Uzi Baram and the digital Angola project

Archaeology is revealing the magnitude of Spanish La Florida as a haven from slavery. From the Apalachicola River in 1816 to the Manatee River in 1821, freedom-seeking peoples fought for their liberty by Florida rivers. This presentation offers an update on how research has changed the image of the people known as escaped slaves, Black Seminoles, and free blacks. Dr. Baram will offer insights into the early 19th century military engagements known as the First Seminole War as well as everyday life on the southwest Florida landscape. New representations of the Florida maroons, based on archaeological research, will show the past in a new light.

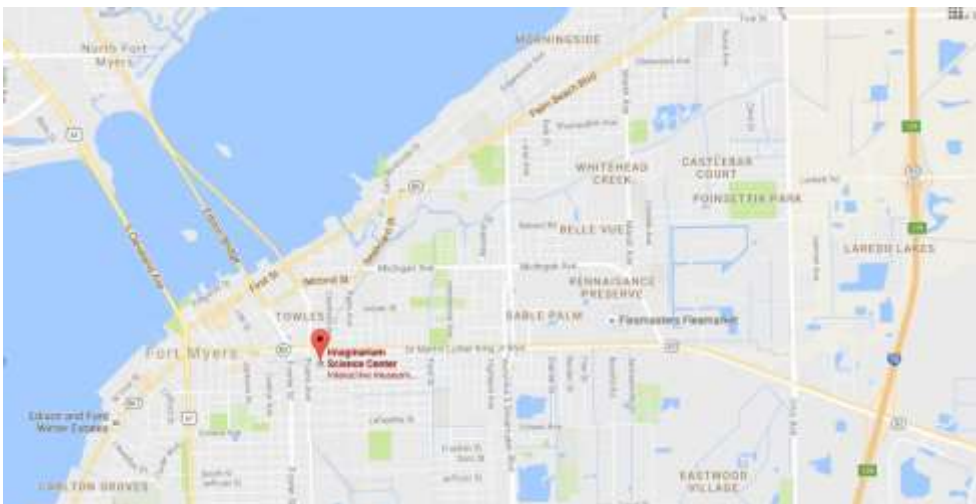
Uzi Baram is the founding director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab and a Professor of Anthropology at New College of Florida. His advanced degrees come from the State University of New York at Binghamton and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. As the lead archaeologist in “Looking for Angola,” a public anthropology program that located material remains of an early 19th century maroon community in southern Tampa Bay, Dr. Baram has researched and facilitated the creation of digital reconstructions of the histories on the Florida southwest coast.

TO GO TO THE IMAGINARIUM:



FROM THE SOUTH: Take the 75 fwy North toward Ft. Myers, then take the FL-82 exit, EXIT 138, toward ML King Jr Blvd/Ft Myers/Immokalee. Turn left onto FL-82/State Road 82. Continue to follow FL-82. Go 3.60 miles, then turn left onto Cranford Ave. Go 0.09 miles, and the Imaginarium is on the right.

FROM THE NORTH: Take I-75 South toward Fort Myers. Take the FL-82 exit, EXIT 138, toward Ft Myers/ML King Jr Blvd/Immokalee. Merge onto Dr Martin Luther King Blvd/FL-82 toward Ft Myers/Edison/Ford Estates/Imaginarium. Go 3.46 miles, then turn left onto Cranford Ave. Go 0.09 miles, and the Imaginarium is on the right.



FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 7:00 pm

**Dr. Ed Gonzalez-Tennant presents: Digital Archaeology and the Destruction of Rosewood, Florida
Coincides with Black History Month**

Location – Fort Myers Imaginarium, 2000 Cranford Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33916

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 7:00 pm

Dr. Keith Ashley presents: Living Life on the Edge: Northeastern Florida and the Mississippian World

Location – TBD

2017 CALUSA HERITAGE DAY

Saturday March 25, 2017

9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Randell Research Center, Pine Island, FL

APRIL MEETING

April 19, 2017, 7:00 pm

Dave Southall presents: Florida's Mission Trail

Location – Collier County Museum, 3331 Tamiami Trl East, Naples, 34112

MAY 5-7, 2017

FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL

IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE YOU'VE (LIKELY) NEVER HEARD OF

by Amy Williams

from Tropicalia News Press

January 24, 2016

FIELD NOTES



If this were Mexico, maybe the place would be better-known. At least south of our border, it seems, archaeological sites are prized — glossily publicized, declared must-sees for camera-toting tourists and swarmed with the colorful opportunists cash-flush strangers attract: tamale vendors, serape salesmen and trinket peddlers.

Not that I'd wish all that on so lovely a place as Larry Luckey's Ortona Indian Mound Park (yes, that's its whole, official name), but it would be nice to see this little-known Glades County attraction get the accolades it deserves.

It is, after all, one of the state's most significant archaeological sites, rivaling Miami Circle in importance. You haven't heard of the Miami Circle either? I rest my case.

Both places offer unique glimpses of the peninsula's past, of the cultures that thrived here long before any Midwesterners arrived. Spreading over 30 scrubby, oaky acres bordering the unincorporated hamlet's historic cemetery, the Ortona site dates to about 200 A.D. It boasts the oldest and longest canal system dug by North American Indians: two 3- and 4-mile-long canals, 20 feet wide and 6 feet deep. There's also a 20-foot high burial

mound at the site, which was originally discovered by surveyor in the 1800s and long believed have been dug by European pioneers rather than native people with nothing more than natural materials at hand. Before the Ortona site was studied, archaeologists believed native cultures in Southwest Florida didn't truly begin to settle down, stratify and flourish until centuries later. Now, they know that people in this region organized themselves into complex societies much earlier.

Best-known in Southwest Florida are the Calusa, who ruled the region when the Spaniards got here in the 16th century and to whom the Ortona people may have been related. The Ortona people used their canals to reach the Caloosahatchee River and to skirt a small waterfall at its headwaters, says former Glades County property appraiser Larry Luckey, for whom the park is named when it opened a decade ago. And though any enterprise like this takes a team, Luckey deserves the lion's share of the credit. "It had just been a garbage dump for many years," he told me. "But I saw so much potential there if you looked from the neck up at all the trees and the open spaces. We had no grant writer, of course, and we couldn't afford to spend any real money on it, but I told the county that if they would dedicate the land, I would dedicate my life, limb and finances to getting a park there." So Luckey persuaded and politiced, picking up countless loads of trash in the process, and sure enough, he got it done.

Now, in addition to a kiosk with graphics and signs explaining the site's history, there's a boardwalk, a kids' playground, picnic benches, covered pavilions and — critical in any remote rural place — restrooms. "I felt like it was too important a place to be left alone," Luckey said. "It's a wonderful place, and now we have our celebrations out there all the time — our marriages, our family reunions, our anniversaries and our annual cane-grinding festival (Feb. 6 this year). And Luckey is still working at it. "If someone calls me and says something's wrong, I dart out there."

But on a winter afternoon, it's hard to imagine anything ever being wrong in so serene a spot, where insect trills rise and fall like quiet breathing. In a clearing, where sunlight confettis through the leaves of old live oaks, squats a rusty cane mill. Trails wind around an old sand mine lake, past sandy, prickly pear scrub where a gopher tortoise placidly tugs at a thin tuft of grass.

Yet on these 30 acres, the whole array of human behavior has played out: weddings and burials, garbage dumping and harvest festivals. And if I were you, I'd take half a day and head out for a look - before the hordes arrive.

— *Larry Luckey's Ortona Indian Mound Park is at 1800 Chiaha Road S.W. just of S.R. 78 in unincorporated Glades County next to the cemetery (which is also worth a visit). Call 863-946-0440.*

Past issues of *The Florida Anthropologist* are available online at: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/flant>

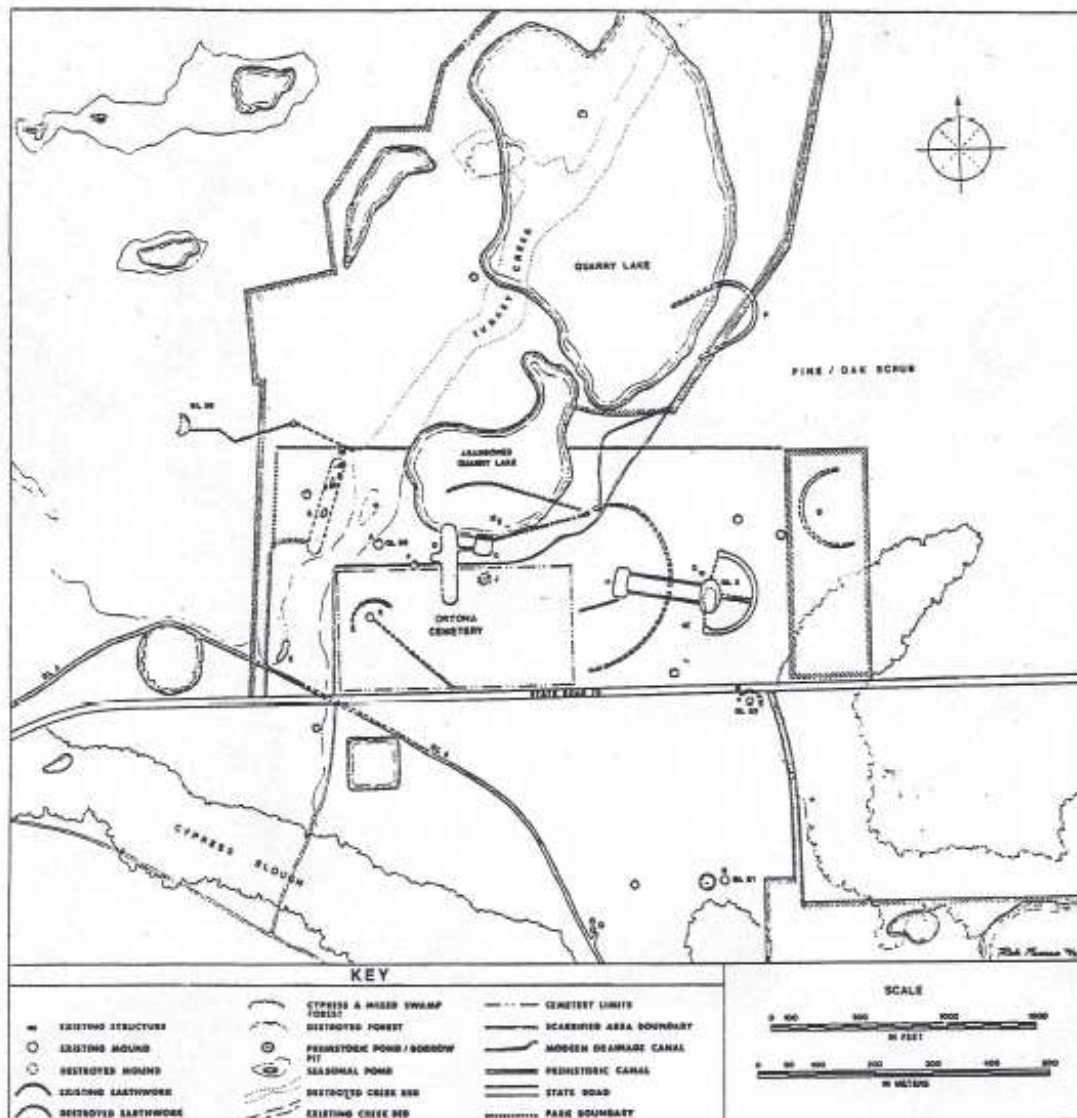
Check out the December 1995 special issue on this site complex.

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGIST

Published by the FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 1995



THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGIST



Volume 48 Number 4
December 1995

Page Number

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Page. Robert J. Austin 226

SPECIAL ISSUE: THE ORTONA MOUND COMPLEX

Archaeological Investigations at the Ortona Earthworks and Mounds. Robert S. Carr, David Dickel, and Marilyn Masson	227
The Ortona Canals: Aboriginal Canal Hydraulics and Engineering. Ryan J. Wheeler	265
Prehistoric Faunal Subsistence Patterns of the Lake Okeechobee Basin. H. Stephen Hale	283
The Montague Tallant Collection of Historic Metal Artifacts. Laura Branstetter	291
Pipe Fragments from Ortona, South Florida: Comments on Platform Pipe Styles, Functions, and Middle Woodland Exchange. George M. Luer	301

NEWS AND NOTES

Cushing's Cat Figurine Star of Centennial Exhibit. Arthur R. Lee	309
Florida Archaeology Week Schedule of Events	311
About the Authors	312

Cover: Map of the Ortona site in Glades County showing major site features.

Copyright 1995 by the
FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
ISSN 0015-3893

IF YOU GO:

from Florida Hikes!

While less than a mile long, this walk in the woods in the ranchlands of Glades County takes you back to a time more than 3,000 years, well before the Calusa paddled the Caloosahatchee in their canoes and settled here too. The original complex is about the same age as the Miami Circle. The Calusa were known for building canals, and here near Turkey Creek, this settlement had an extensive canal system and a number of mounds, including the highest point in Glades County. Only a small portion of the original complex is left today, but this interpretive trail leads you through the hammocks and scrub to see these ancient mounds and canals.

OVERVIEW

Location: Ortona

Length: 0.8 mile

Lat-Long: 26.819477, -81.303984

Type: Round-trip

Fees / Permits: none

Difficulty: easy to moderate

Bug factor: low to moderate

Restroom: yes

The park is home to the annual Ortona Cane Grinding Festival, held the first weekend in February. There are picnic pavilions and playground equipment in the shady oak hammock where the trail begins, and a covered picnic table in a pretty spot along the hike.

DIRECTIONS

From US 27 between Palmdale and Moore Haven, turn west on SR 78. Follow it to Ortona. Immediately after you pass the historic Ortona Cemetery, the next turnoff on your right leads to this small county park and its significant archaeological site.

HIKE

Known as "Ortona Indian Mounds Park" on the county park signs, this important archaeological site is all that remains of a once-mighty village along the floodplain of the Caloosahatchee River. It is set in a remnant of scrub habitat, perhaps the southernmost extent of the Lake Wales Ridge, where the sand live oaks are thickly festooned with ball moss. Park your car and walk into the park. You'll see a playground off to the right. Turn right and look for a large kiosk in the distance: the path isn't marked from the parking lot approach, which is why on prior visits I never assumed there was a trail to be found. Weave your way between the trees to reach the display, which offers several panels presenting the history and significance of this archaeological site.

From the interpretive display, a boardwalk leads uphill into an oak hammock. There's a reason for the uphill—you're atop one of the remaining mounds. Before this site was ever seriously studied, many of the mounds were carted away for roadfill, and a large portion of the complex was erased more than a century ago when the Ortona Cemetery, itself a historic site, was created atop a portion of what might have been a burial ground for millennia. Covered in vegetation, this particular mound is only distinguishable by its elevation and the interpretive sign along the boardwalk, which is showing its age, a little soft in places.

When you reach the end of the boardwalk, turn right. The trail continues as a broad grassy path through somewhat of a thicket of overgrowth the scrub plants, heavily draped in grapevines. It emerges at a view of a large pond. Turn right. The pond appears to have been artificially created, just as the peoples who lived here

created a complex series of tall mounds above the marshlands and a system of canals for transportation. The core of the complex was this high pine island and oak scrub, and it's here that the greatest amount of evidence has been found of their lives, including pottery shards and seeds from vegetables grown. As the trail winds its way around the pond, there are quite a few scenic views. At one spot, look down at the bright white sand and you'll see sand spikemoss, an interesting lichen with a cluster of thin finger-like protrusions that point straight up. You pass a bench overlooking the lake, and there are mounds to the right, covered in goldenaster beneath sand live oaks. Blazing star grows in profusion - a short, scrubby version of blazing star that sprawls across the path — and in early fall, the stems are lined with tiny purple flowers.

At 0.4 mile, you reach a scenic high spot topped with a covered picnic bench and grill, a good place for a picnic. The trail continues across a bridge, crossing one of the ancient canoe canals. It's just wide enough for a paddler, and deep enough to channel water at a steady flow, were there any water to channel anymore. Pineapple-sized bromeliads grow in the sand live oaks, and deer moss thrives in the pine duff. The trail continues through the scrub, delineated by logs on either side. It's obvious this was once an interpretive trail, but the markers are missing. It's a shame, because in addition to the canal, you encounter another long, linear mound on the left, about five feet high. The trail starts to loop around and comes to an abrupt end at the steep-sided canal. Don't cross here, so as to not disturb the ancient earthworks the canal slopes are very steep sided. Return along the outlined path back to the picnic shelter.

On your return walk, look for an opening in the oaks on the left for the short walk down to the canal from the opposite side. Since there is a bench next to the canal, I'm guessing there were plans for a second bridge here to make a loop, but it was never built. The blazing star is especially thick here. Exit the spur trail and turn left, walking along the pond. You'll come to a large grassy clearing at 0.7 mile. Continue straight into the main portion of the park, where there is a large picnic shelter overlooking the pond. The historic artifacts and buildings you see are used during the annual Ortona Cane Grinding Festival. Near the sugar cane press, you see the "Nature Trail" sign off to the left, leading back to the primary interpretive kiosk. Continue past the press and picnic shelters and turn left at the next large opening between the oaks to exit to the parking area.

MILEAGE

- 0.0 Start at the parking area
- 0.1 Interpretive display and boardwalk
- 0.3 Bench
- 0.4 Covered picnic shelter with grill
- 0.5 Trail ends at canal, retrace steps
- 0.7 Clearing with trail junction, head straight to picnic area
- 0.8 Return

FAS AND SWFAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

We encourage those interested in Florida archaeology to become members of The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS). Annual dues are due in January of 2017 and membership applications to both organizations are attached. Membership in the FAS provides you with four annual volumes of *The Florida Anthropologist* and occasional newsletters on anthropological events in Florida in addition to the annual statewide meeting. More information on FAS can be found online at: www.fasweb.org. Membership in SWFAS offers you a local series of talks on archaeological and anthropological subjects that you can attend. The SWFAS monthly newsletter keeps you up to date on local events as well as other important archaeological topics. We urge you to support both with your membership. All of the SWFAS Lecture Series are open to the public at no charge.



Join the Florida Anthropological Society

Florida Anthropological Society membership categories and rates:

Student:	\$15 (with a copy of a current student ID)
Regular:	\$30
Family:	\$35
Institutional:	\$30
Sustaining:	\$100
Patron:	\$1000
Benefactor:	\$2500

- Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate, and high school students. A photocopy of your current student ID must accompany payment
- Add \$25 for foreign addresses
- Membership forms also are available at www.fasweb.org/membership.htm
- The Society publishes the journal *The Florida Anthropologist* and newsletters, normally quarterly and sponsors and annual meeting hosted by a local chapter.

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Telephone:
Email:
FAS Chapter:

_____ I agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Florida Anthropological Society

Mail to:
Florida Anthropological Society
c/o Pat Balanzategui P.O. Box 1135
St. Augustine, FL 32085

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY (SWFAS)

I want to help The Southwest Florida Archaeology Society preserve and interpret our prehistoric heritage.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check One

Individual (\$20) _____ Sustaining Individual (\$50) _____

Family (\$35) _____ Student (\$15) _____

Life (\$500) _____

Skills, training, interests: _____

I hereby agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. I further release from any and all liability due to accident and injury to myself, dependents and any property owners cooperating with the society.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Please make your check out to SWFAS and mail to:

SWFAS
PO BOX 9965
NAPLES, FL 34101

REV. 01262016