



Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) January 2018 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by John Furey



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year to everyone as we begin 2018. SWFAS has a new series of interesting speakers this year for our Spring presentations that will bring us up to date and educate us all.

2018 SWFAS DUES

Just a reminder that SWFAS dues run from January to December and the 2018 dues are due this month. We thank you for your continued support for archaeology in Southwest Florida.

CAPTAIN JOHN FOLEY HARR HOUSE: MARCO ISLAND: PRESERVATION UPDATE

SWFAS planned to meet and make a presentation on the Captain John Foley Harr House at the January HOA meeting at Marco Island, however, due to prior commitments we could not make this meeting. We currently plan on attending the February HOA meeting and give a presentation by David Southall. It appears that FPAN was also aware that the building was partially destroyed by Hurricane Irma and visited the site. SWFAS would also like to get FPAN, the Collier County Historical and Archaeological Council and the Marco Historical Society involved in the preservation of this local historical site. This is a local treasure.

PEOPLING OF THE AMERICAS BY SEA: THE COASTAL MIGRATION THEORY

A recent interesting article in Science Magazine by Lizzie Wade discusses the evidence for a maritime connection to the West Coast of the Americas that is Pre-Clovis and subsisted on fish, shellfish and marine mammals, much as in coastal Florida. Discoveries by Matthew Des Lauriers, a professor at California State (Cal State) University, Northridge, CA, on Cedros Island off the tip of Baja Mexico, indicate that the island was inhabited at least 12,600 years ago. Please see the attached article by Wade and one by Bob Yirka about the "kelp Highway" to the Americas.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2018

On February 21, 2018 at 7PM SWFAS commemorates Black History Month with a presentation on *Slavery and the Sea: Exploring Maritime Aspects of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*, by Corey Malcom, Director of Archaeology at the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum and Heritage at Key West Florida, at the IMAG. Don't miss it!

FEBRUARY 21

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Wednesday, 7:00 pm

SLAVERY AND THE SEA: EXPLORING MARITIME ASPECTS OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

COREY MALCOM, Director of Archaeology, Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, Heritage & Key West, FL

IMAG History and Science Center, 2000 Cranford Avenue, Ft. Myers, FL

South Florida was never a hub for the Transatlantic Slave Trade, but because of its location as a gateway to the Caribbean, many significant, associated events occurred here. Today, evidence for the Slave Trade can be found in Florida, both on land and under the sea. Marine archaeologist Corey Malcom, of Key West's Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, will speak about his organization's efforts to document the history and archaeology of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, ranging from the exploration of ancient, underwater shipwreck sites to the discovery of a long-forgotten, beachfront cemetery for Africans rescued from slave ships. In looking at these sites and their stories, one of the most agonizing but significant chapters in American history can be a bit more clearly understood.



Corey Malcom documenting an artifact from the wreck site of the 1827 Cuban pirate-slaver *Guerrero*

Corey Malcom is the Director of Archaeology for the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum in Key West, Florida, a position he has held for 30 years. During this time, he has investigated the shipwrecks of the 1622 galleon *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*, the 1700 English slaver *Henrietta Marie*, the galleon *Santa Clara* of 1564, and the Cuban pirate-slaver *Guerrero*, among others. The Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society operates a two thousand square foot conservation laboratory, directed by Malcolm, that specializes in conserving underwater archaeological artifacts. Mr. Malcom is a graduate of Indiana and Nova Southeastern Universities and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Huddersfield.



Corey Malcom with cannons from the wreck of the 1564 galleon *Santa Clara*

TO GO TO THE IMAG:



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.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2018 SPEAKERS PROGRAM (all SWFAS events are free)

MARCH 21

Wednesday, 7:00 pm

ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

MADE FROM THE SANDS OF FLORIDA: EGMONT KEY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

PAUL BACKHOUSE, PhD, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Seminole Tribe of Florida
IMAG History and Science Center, 2000 Cranford Avenue, Ft. Myers, FL

APRIL 18

Wednesday, 7:00 pm

THE SCIENCE AND ART OF READING BONES

HEATHER WALSH-HANEY, Associate Professor, Florida Gulf Coast U
Collier County Museum 3331 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112

MAY 11-13, 2018

70th ANNUAL MEETING of the FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY
St. Petersburg, FL

Hosted by the Alliance for Weeden Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE)
and the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg

JANUARY FUNCTION: NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: THE LENSES OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY by MATTHEW JOHNSON, Director, IMAG
THE BLENDING OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY



IMAG Director Matthew Johnson with SWFAS President John Furey

The SWFAS January presentation was a resounding success with approximately 80 attendees. It began at 5:00 pm with a reception of hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine and an opportunity to see and explore the many areas of the IMAG. Most of the attendees had never been to the IMAG before and were amazed at the many hands on areas and innovative programs that the museum has to offer. The museum is a merger of the Southwest Florida Museum of History and the Imaginarium; now the IMAG. It has also transitioned from being run by the City of Fort Myers to a private nonprofit.

After the Reception, Matthew Johnson, Executive Director of the IMAG, gave an innovative talk on how the IMAG is fusing history and science through exhibits and programs. A stated goal is to emphasize interrelationships between disciplines through innovative connection building and a hands-on approach. Matt Johnson provided examples including how to show and make relevant and understandable algebra to people? Contextualizing how did the

Caloosahatchee River become the way it is today as opposed to just studying the current state of the river? This how you blend science and history to make things more relatable and understandable. Matt then explained the long-term future plans that the IMAG has to expand the size of the museum campus and to further fuse science and history in its mission of education and understanding.

For those of you that have not had an opportunity to visit the IMAG we highly recommend it. It is both for adults and children, but a great opportunity to experience hands-on history with your children and/or your grandchildren.

FPAN FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

FPAN is offering a program entitled "Ancient Explorers: Little Salt Spring and the Peopling of the Americas on Saturday February 24, 2018 at the University of Miami Coral Gables Campus. Please see the flyer below on how to register for this event. This subject is related to the two articles selected for this month in this SWFAS Newsletter on the early peopling of the Americas.

ANCIENT EXPLORERS:

LITTLE SALT SPRING AND THE PEOPLING OF THE AMERICAS

FEBRUARY 24, 2018

STORER AUDITORIUM, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI CORAL GABLES CAMPUS
5250 UNIVERSITY DR, MIAMI, FL 33146

Join us for a one day public symposium on Little Salt Spring. Through a variety of scholarly presentations, a pop-up artifact exhibit, and discussion panel we aim to explore the role of Little Salt Spring within the broader spectrum of knowledge of the first peopling of the Americas and address the site's pertinence to climate change in the past, present, and future.

\$25 REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES LUNCH



FLORIDA PUBLIC
ARCHAEOLOGY
NETWORK

A PARTNER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH

HISTORYMIAMI MUSEUM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
<https://goo.gl/RaXUR1>

FLORIDA HUMANITIES SERIES - FOCUS ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN LEE COUNTY: OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS - SEE THE INFORMATION ON EACH EVENT BELOW:

The Southwest Florida Historical Society and The Lee County Black History Society present

The Civil Rights Movement in Florida by Dr. Anthony Dixon

Tuesday, January 23rd 2018 | Reception 5:30 pm | Event 6 pm

The Williams Academy Black History Museum | 1936 Henderson Ave., Fort Myers



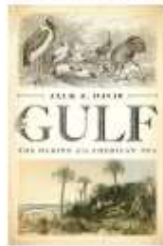
Florida has a relationship with African descendants unlike any other state. This relationship has had a direct impact on the growth of Florida. Throughout each period of Florida History there is a significant presence of the African Diaspora. Professor Dixon discusses this relationship and the Civil Rights Movement in Florida.

Dr. Anthony Dixon is the Founder and President of Archival and Historical Research Associates, LLC (AHRA), a public history company. He is also the Archivist and Assistant Professor of History at Bethune-Cookman University and Chairman of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

Florida and the Gulf Coast of Mexico: History, Wisdom and Hope by Dr. Jack Davis

January 25th 2018 | Reception 5:30pm | Event 6pm

The Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium | 3450 Ortiz Ave., Fort Myers



Drawing from his book, *Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*, University of Florida history professor Jack E. Davis will talk about the role the Gulf of Mexico has played in the course of U.S. History. He is interested in the way the Gulf has been a positive force in human events and how people, from pre-Spanish natives to current shoreside residents, have organized their societies and individual lives around nature.

Dr. Jack Davis is a professor of environmental history and sustainable studies at the University of Florida. His book *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglass and the American Environmental Century*, won the gold medal in nonfiction from the Florida book awards.

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Comes to Life: A First-Person Perspective by Ersula Knox Odom

February 15th 2018 | Reception 5:30pm | Event 6pm-8pm

FGCU Seidler Hall Rm 114 | 10501 FGCU Boulevard S., Fort Myers

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955) was the founder of Bethune-Cookman University. She served as a New Deal government official in one of the 20 highest level offices held by women in the administration and the highest held by an African American woman; was founder of FDR's "black cabinet"; served as president of the National Association of Colored Women; founded and served as President of the National Council of Negro Women. Performer Ersula Knox Odom is an author, legacy writer/reporter.



The Highwaymen: Florida's African- American Landscape Painters by Gary Monroe

February 26th 2018 | Reception 5:30 pm | Event 6pm

The Williams Academy Black History Museum | 1936 Henderson Ave. Fort Myers

This lively talk relates the story of the now- acclaimed artists, who taught themselves to paint idyllic versions of the Florida landscape and sell their creations door-to- door during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. Their paintings have become the measure of indigenous Florida art and are now celebrated and widely collected.

When Gary Monroe isn't traveling the world to photograph, he spends his time looking at life in Florida through this photography and his writings. His imagery and his literary works have been recognized by grants from the National Endowments for the Arts, Florida Department of State's Division of Cultural Affairs and the Fulbright Foundation.



The speaker series is sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council with funds from the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, True Tours, and Lee Trust for Historic Preservation. Individual programs are also supported by Xi Omicron Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium, FGCU Office of Community Outreach, Fort Myers Redevelopment Agency and the City of Ft Myers.

For more information on each program, please see leecountyblackhistorysociety.org

ARTICLES: PEOPLING OF THE AMERICAS BY BOAT

MOST ARCHAEOLOGISTS THINK THE FIRST AMERICANS ARRIVED BY BOAT. NOW THEY'RE BEGINNING TO PROVE IT.

Science Magazine by Lizzie Wade August 10, 2017 at <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/08/most-archaeologists-think-first-americans-arrived-boat-now-they-re-beginning-prove-it>



Matthew Des Lauriers transforms a beach cobble into a type of stone tool used by people who lived on Cedros Island nearly 13,000 years ago. These people lived near freshwater springs but relied on the sea, dining on fish, sea mammals, and seabirds.

As he explored, his feet crunched over shells of large Pismo clams—bivalves that he hadn't seen before on the mountainous island, 100 kilometers off the Pacific coast of Baja California. The stone tools littering the ground didn't fit, either. Unlike the finely made arrow points and razor-sharp obsidian that Des Lauriers had previously found on the island, these jagged flakes had been crudely knocked off of chunky beach cobbles. "I had no idea what it meant," says Des Lauriers, now a professor at California State University (Cal State) in Northridge. Curiosity piqued, he returned for a test excavation and sent some shell and charcoal for radiocarbon dating. When Des Lauriers's adviser called with the results, he said, "You should probably sit down." The material dated from nearly 11,000 to more than 12,000 years ago—only a couple thousand years after the first people reached the Americas. That discovery, in 2004, proved to be no anomaly; since then, Des Lauriers has discovered 14 other early sites and excavated two, pushing back the settlement of Cedros Island to nearly 13,000

years ago. The density of early coastal sites here "is unprecedented in North America," says archaeologist Loren Davis of Oregon State University in Corvallis, who joined the project in 2009.

The Cedros Island sites add to a small but growing list that supports a once-heretical view of the peopling of the Americas. Whereas archaeologists once thought that the earliest arrivals wandered into the continent through a gap in the ice age glaciers covering Canada, most researchers today think the first inhabitants came by sea. In this view, maritime explorers voyaged by boat out of Beringia—the ancient land now partially submerged under the waters of the Bering Strait—about 16,000 years ago and quickly moved down the Pacific coast, reaching Chile by at least 14,500 years ago. Findings such as those on Cedros Island bolster that picture by showing that people were living along the coast practically as early as anyone was in the Americas. But these sites don't yet prove the coastal hypothesis. Some archaeologists argue that the first Americans might have entered via the continental interior and turned to a maritime way of life only after they arrived. "If they came down an interior ice-free corridor, they could have turned right, saw the beaches of California, and said, 'To hell with this,'" says archaeologist David Meltzer of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

The evidence that might settle the question has been mostly out of reach. As the glaciers melted starting about 16,500 years ago, global sea level rose by about 120 meters, drowning many coasts and any settlements they held. "We are decades into the search for coastal dispersers, and we're still waiting for solid evidence or proof," says Gary Haynes, an archaeologist at the University of Nevada in Reno, who thinks the first Americans likely took an inland route. The hunt for that evidence is now in high gear. A dedicated cadre of archaeologists is searching for maritime sites dating to between 14,000 and 16,000 years ago, before the ice-free corridor became fully passable. They're looking at the gateway to the Americas, along stretches of the Alaskan and Canadian coasts that were spared the post-ice age flooding. They are even looking underwater. And on Cedros Island, Des Lauriers is helping fill in the picture of how early coastal people lived and what tools they made, details that link them to maritime cultures around the Pacific Rim and imply that they were not landlubbers who later turned seaward. "All eyes are on the coast," Meltzer says.

On a sunny June day, Des Lauriers crouches in a gully here, bracing himself against the wind blowing off the ocean. He leans over to examine what could be a clue to how people lived here 12,000 years ago: a delicate crescent of shell glinting in the sun. A few centimeters away, a sharply curved shell point lies broken in two pieces. Des Lauriers knows he's looking at the remains of an ancient fishhook. He has already found four others on the island. One of those, at about 11,500 years old, is the oldest fishhook discovered in the Americas, as reported this summer in *American Antiquity*. Des Lauriers wasn't planning to collect artifacts on this trip, but the shell fishhook is too precious to leave to the elements. His team scrambles for anything they can use to package the delicate artifact. Someone produces a roll of

toilet paper, and Des Lauriers scoops up the fragments with his trowel and eases them onto the improvised padding. Each fragment is wrapped snugly and slipped into a plastic bag.

Twenty years ago, most archaeologists believed the first Americans were not fishermen, but rather big-game hunters who had followed mammoths and bison through the ice-free corridor in Canada. The distinctive Clovis spear points found at sites in the lower 48 states starting about 13,500 years ago were thought to be their signature. But bit by bit, the Clovis-first picture has crumbled. The biggest blow came in 1997, when archaeologists confirmed that an inland site at Monte Verde in Chile was at least 14,500 years old—1000 years before Clovis tools appeared. Since then, several more pre-Clovis sites have come to light, and the most recent date from Monte Verde stretches back to 18,500 years ago, although not all researchers accept it. Genetic evidence from precontact South American skeletons now suggests that the earliest Americans expanded out of Beringia about 16,000 years ago.

Not only were the Clovis people not the first to arrive, but many researchers also doubt the first Americans could have made it by land. Glaciers likely covered the land route through western Canada until after 16,000 years ago, according to recent research that dated minerals in the corridor's oldest sand dunes. Another study showed that bison from Alaska and the continental United States didn't mingle in the corridor until about 13,000 years ago, implying that the passage took at least 2000 years to fully open and transform into a grassland welcoming to megafauna and their human hunters. That makes the coastal route the first Americans' most likely—or perhaps only—path. It would have been inviting, says Knut Fladmark, a professor emeritus of archaeology at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, Canada, one of the first to propose a coastal migration into the Americas back in 1979. "The land-sea interface is one of the richest habitats anywhere in the world," he says. Early Americans apparently knew how to take full advantage of its abundant resources. At Monte Verde, once 90 kilometers from the coast, archaeologist Tom Dillehay of Vanderbilt University in Nashville found nine species of edible and medicinal seaweed dated to about 14,000 years ago.

On Cedros Island, artifacts suggest that people found diverse ways to make a living from the sea. That isn't a given because 13,000 years ago, the island was connected to the mainland, hanging off the Baja peninsula like a hitchhiker's outstretched thumb; early sites cluster around freshwater springs that would have been several kilometers inland back then. But Des Lauriers's work reveals that the Cedros Islanders ate shellfish, sea lions, elephant seals, seabirds, and fish from all sorts of ocean environments, including deep-water trenches accessible only by boat.

In addition to making fishhooks, the island's inhabitants fashioned beach cobbles into crude scrapers and hammers—"disposable razors," as Des Lauriers, a stone tool expert, calls them. Such tools are best for scraping and cutting plant fibers, suggesting that the islanders were processing agave into fishing lines and nets. Researchers have found a similar suite of tools at other early sites along the Pacific coast, hinting that fishing technologies were widespread even though the organic nets, lines, and boats likely decayed long ago. Certain tool types found here suggest even more distant connections. Des Lauriers often finds stemmed points, a style of spear point found from Japan to Peru and perhaps used on the

The coastal connection

Most archaeologists now think people arrived in the Americas by boat before 14,000 years ago and hopped down the Pacific coast. A growing list of ancient coastal sites like these supports the idea.



Lost lands

Before the ice age glaciers melted, Cedros Island was connected to the Baja peninsula. Archaeologists suspect many early sites up and down the Pacific coast were lost beneath the seas.



island to hunt sea mammals and native pygmy deer. The shell fishhooks even resemble the world's oldest known fishhooks, which were crafted from the shells of sea snails on Okinawa in Japan about 23,000 years ago.

Although the evidence of a widespread, sophisticated maritime way of life along the ancient Pacific coast—what Meltzer calls "Hansel and Gretel leaving a trail of artifacts"—is provocative, it can't prove the coastal migration theory, he says. The oldest sites on Cedros Island are younger than the first Clovis spear points used to bring down big game on the mainland. But older coastal sites are beginning to turn up. This year Dillehay announced the discovery of a nearly 15,000-year-old site at Huaca Prieta, about 600 kilometers north of Lima. Its earliest residents lived in an estuary 30 kilometers from the Pacific shoreline but still ate mostly shark, seabirds, marine fish, and sea lions, and their artifacts resemble those at other coastal sites. "I was stunned how similar [the tools of Huaca Prieta] were to [those of] Cedros Island," Davis says.

Still, pinning down the coastal migration theory will take a string of well-dated sites beginning before 15,000 years ago in southwestern Alaska or British Columbia in Canada and extending through time down the coast. To find them, archaeologists will have to take the plunge. Loren Davis tries to stay steady as he makes his way into a laboratory aboard the research vessel Pacific Storm. The archaeologist was desperately seasick in his cabin for 2 days in late May as the 25-meter-long ship fought rough seas more than 35 kilometers off the Oregon coast. With Davis laid low, his team members scanned the ocean floor with sound waves. They are seeking the now-flooded landscape ancient maritime explorers would have followed on their journey south, when today's coastlines were dozens of kilometers inland. Some coastal travelers did eventually turn landward, as shown by early inland sites such as Oregon's Paisley Caves, which yielded a 14,200-year-old human coprolite. But the earliest chapters of any coastal migration are almost certainly underwater.

Sixteen thousand years later, it's tempting to envision such a migration as a race from beach to beach. But as people expanded into the uninhabited Americas, they had no destination in mind. They stopped, settled in, ventured beyond what they knew, and backtracked into what they did. So the first step for archaeologists is to figure out where, exactly, those early mariners would have chosen to stick around. The decision likely came down to one resource: freshwater. "Water is the lifeblood of everything," Davis says. So he has been painstakingly mapping the probable courses of ancient rivers across the now-drowned coastline, hoping that those channels are still detectable, despite now being filled with sediment and covered by deep ocean. As team members pulled up early results to show Davis during May's cruise, a black line representing the present-day sea floor squiggled horizontally across the screen. Then it diverged into two lines, a gap like a smile opening across the image: An ancient river channel lay below the modern sea floor, right where Davis's model had predicted. "If I hadn't been so sick—and if there had been alcohol on the ship—that would have been a champagne moment," he says. "We can [now] begin to visualize where the hot spots [of human occupation] are probably going to be."

This summer, Davis's colleague Amy Gusick, an archaeologist at Cal State in San Bernardino, used one of his maps to take the first sample from another probable hot spot: a drowned river off the coast of California's Channel Islands. Terrestrial sites on the islands have already yielded 13,000-year-old human bones as well as characteristically coastal stone tools. But since then, the rising sea has inundated 65% of the islands' ancient area. Gusick and her colleagues are confident that submerged sites, possibly even older than the ones on land, exist off today's coast. In June, she used a 5-meter sampling tube to pierce what Davis's map told her was the ancient riverbank. The muck she collected will reveal whether ancient soil, perhaps including plant remains, pollen, animal bones, or human artifacts, can still be recovered from deep underwater. Eventually, Gusick hopes to understand the drowned landscape well enough to pick out anomalies on the sonar map—possible shell middens or houses—and target them for coring that might bring up artifacts and the organic material needed to date them. A date of 15,000 years or older would show that before the ice-free corridor fully opened, adept mariners had explored the Channel Islands, which were never connected to the mainland and could be reached only by boat.

"This is the biggest scientific effort to move us down the road to answering this question" of how and when people settled the Americas, says Todd Braje, an archaeologist at San Diego State University in California, one of the leaders of the coring project. "Those submerged landscapes are really the last frontier for American archaeology," says Jon Erlandson, an anthropologist at the University of Oregon in Eugene who has excavated on the Channel Islands for decades and also is part of the project. All the same, to make a definitive case for the coastal route, researchers must

find pre-Clovis coastal sites in the doorway to the Americas itself: on the shores of southwestern Alaska or British Columbia. Luckily, archaeologists working there may not even have to go underwater to do it.

About 13,200 years ago, someone strolled through the intertidal zone just above the beach on Calvert Island, off the coast of British Columbia, leaving footprints in the area's wet, dense clay. When high tide rolled in, sand and gravel filled the impressions, leaving a raised outline. Layers of sediment built up over the millennia, preserving the barely eroded footprints under half a meter of earth. Daryl Fedje, an archaeologist at the University of Victoria (UVic) and the Hakai Institute on Quadra Island in Canada, spotted that outline while excavating on the beach in 2014. Since then, he and his UVic and Hakai colleague Duncan McLaren have documented 29 of those footprints beneath Calvert's beaches. A piece of wood embedded in a footprint's fill provided the radiocarbon date. "It raises the hairs on the back of your neck," says McLaren, who in April presented the footprints at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Vancouver, Canada.

Such an intimate view of early coastal Americans is possible on Calvert Island because of a geological quirk. The melting ice sheets flooded coastlines elsewhere. But when the coasts of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska were suddenly freed from the weight of the nearby glaciers, parts of the underlying crust began to rebound, lifting some islands high enough to largely escape the flood. To maximize their chances of finding ancient sites, McLaren, Fedje, and their UVic colleague Quentin Mackie have spent decades mapping the local sea level changes along the coast of British Columbia. On Calvert Island, where the footprints were discovered, sea level rose only 2 meters. Around nearby Quadra Island, local sea level actually fell, stranding ancient shorelines in forests high above modern beaches. There, "potentially the entire history of occupation is on dry land," Mackie says.

The painstaking work required to identify and search those ancient coastlines is paying off with a march of increasingly older dates from the British Columbia coast. The remains of an ancient bear hunt—spear points lying in a cluster of bear bones—in Gaadu Din cave on the Haida Gwaii archipelago date to 12,700 years ago. The Calvert footprints stretch back 13,200 years. And a cluster of stone tools next to a hearth on Triquet Island is 14,000 years old—the region's oldest artifact so far, according to radiocarbon dates from the hearth's charcoal. Although reports about the footprints and the Triquet tools have yet to be peer reviewed, several archaeologists say they are impressed by the British Columbia team's approach. "They're looking in exactly the right place," Erlandson says.

Despite the proliferating evidence for the coastal route, not everyone is ready to discount the ice-free corridor entirely. The region has barely been studied and is ripe for "interesting surprises," says John Ives, an archaeologist at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. For example, the corridor may not have been a welcoming grassland until 14,000 years ago, but Haynes says it is naïve to assume that people couldn't have ventured into the corridor as soon as the ice was gone. Before grass took root, "the inland corridor route would have been full of freshwater sources, seasonally migrating or resident waterfowl by the millions, and large and small mammals exploring new ranges," he says. "Eastern Beringia's inland foragers of 14,000 years ago were descendants of expert pioneers and could have traveled far south on foot." And so the hunt continues. Before breakfast one morning on Cedros Island, Des Lauriers spreads out satellite images of the island's southern edge. Most of the land appears as brown pixels, as one would expect from a desert island. But here and there, clusters of blue pixels appear—signs of moisture in the ground. Find the springs, Des Lauriers knows, and he'll find the people.

Davis and the rest of the team pile into the back of a pickup truck, and Des Lauriers follows a dirt path to a spring he hasn't visited before. The patch of green lies at the bottom of a steep-sided arroyo, which is otherwise bone dry. Algae cover the surface of a meter-deep pool. The dark soil is rich with organic matter, unusual for arid Cedros Island and possibly indicating an ancient settlement. Stone tools characteristic of the earliest islanders dot the surface. "There's a lot of stuff here, Matt," Davis calls to Des Lauriers. "It's punching all the boxes."

Interspersed with the recognizably early tools are things neither of them has seen on the island before: large, striated scallop shells belonging to a species known as *mano de león* (lion's paw). Today those scallops live in lagoons east of here, on the coast of the Baja peninsula. Des Lauriers says he suspects that similar lagoons connected Cedros Island to the mainland before 13,000 years ago. Were people here early enough to visit such lagoons? Could those shells be hinting at a phase of settlement even older than the one signaled by the Pismo clams 13 years ago? To find out, Des Lauriers will have to wait until the team excavates and takes samples for radiocarbon dating. He records the site's GPS

coordinates and then, just as people have done here for millennia, sets off the arroyo in search of the next source of freshwater.

ANTHROPOLOGIST GROUP SUGGESTS FIRST HUMANS TO THE AMERICAS ARRIVED VIA THE KELP HIGHWAY

By Bob Yirka, Phys.org at <https://m.phys.org/news/2017-11-anthropologist-group-humans-americas-kelp.html>

November 3, 2017



Recent archaeological finds show that pre-Clovis people arrived in the Americas before 13,500 years ago, likely via a coastal route along the Pacific Coast. Higher sea levels make finding direct evidence difficult. Credit: (c) J. YOU AND N. CARY Science (2017). DOI: 10.1126/science.aao5473

A team of anthropologists from several institutions in the U.S. has offered a Perspective piece in the journal Science outlining current theories regarding the first humans to populate the Americas. In their paper, they scrap the conventional view that Clovis people making their way across a Bering land bridge were the first to arrive in the Americas—more recent evidence suggests others arrived far earlier, likely using boats to travel just offshore. As the authors note, for most of the last century, the accepted theory of humans' first arrival was via the land bridge in what is now the Bering Strait—at the time, sea levels would have been much lower. Those early settlers, named the Clovis people, were theorized to have traveled down a central ice-free corridor

into what is now the U.S. approximately 13,500 years ago. But, as the authors also note, evidence since the late 1980s has shown that there were people living in parts of the Americas long before the time of the Clovis migration. Archaeological evidence of people living on islands off of Asia and on the North and South American coasts (some as far south as Chile) has been found going as far back as 14,000 to 18,000 years ago. Evidence has also been found of people living in the North American interior as far back as 16,000 years ago.

All this new evidence, the authors report, has caused most experts in the field to abandon the idea of the Clovis people as the first to arrive. Most now believe that the first people to arrive did so by boat rather than walking, and they did it by following the coasts, not through the interior. This would have been possible, the authors note, because of what has come to be known as the kelp highway—kelp forests growing just offshore. All that kelp, it has been noted, would have provided a rich habitat for sea creatures upon which hearty travelers could feast. The authors conclude by noting that too little research has been done offshore—the early travelers would have been residing mostly on land that is now covered by the sea due to higher worldwide ocean levels. If the scientific community truly wants to learn more about human migration to the Americas, they suggest, more work needs to be done offshore.

More information: Todd J. Braje et al. Finding the first Americans, Science (2017). DOI: 10.1126/science.aao5473

Summary: For much of the 20th century, most archaeologists believed humans first colonized the Americas ~13,500 years ago via an overland route that crossed Beringia and followed a long and narrow, mostly ice-free corridor to the vast plains of central North America. There, Clovis people and their descendants hunted large game and spread rapidly through the New World. Twentieth-century discoveries of distinctive Clovis artifacts throughout North America, some associated with mammoth or mastodon kill sites, supported this "Clovis-first" model. North America's coastlines and their rich marine, estuarine, riverine, and terrestrial ecosystems were peripheral to the story of how and when the Americas were first settled by humans. Recent work along the Pacific coastlines of North and South America has revealed that these environments were settled early and continuously provided a rich diversity of subsistence options and technological resources for New World hunter-gatherers.

SWFAS SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE 2018 CALANDER YEAR

At the SWFAS January 17, 2018 meeting, the following slate of candidates were elected for 2018:

Officers

President: John Furey
First Vice-President: Jim Oswald
Second Vice-President: Elizabeth Clement
Secretary: Susan Harrington
Treasurer: Charlie Strader

Trustees

First of 3-year term:
Jan Gooding
Amanda Townsend
Third of 3-year term:
Theresa Schober
Mary Southall
William Locascio

Find us on Facebook at Southwest Florida Archaeological Society!

Check out our new website at <http://swflarchaeology.org/>

SWFAS AND FAS 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 US!

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) was founded in 1980 as a not-for profit corporation to provide a meeting place for people interested in the area's past.

Our goals are to:

- Learn more of the area's history
- Create a place for sharing of this information
- Advocate for preservation of cultural resources

Its members include professional and amateur archaeologists and interested members of the general public. Members come from all walks of life and age groups. They share a lively curiosity, a respect for the people who preceded them here, and a feeling of responsibility for the conservation of the places and objects they left behind.

The Society holds monthly meetings between October and April, attracting speakers who are in the forefront of archaeological and historical research. Occasionally members join in trips to historical and archaeological sites.

A monthly newsletter, Facebook page, and website keep members abreast of our events and happenings.

The organization is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, a statewide organization that publishes quarterly newsletters and a journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*, and holds an annual conference.

I want to help The Southwest Florida Archaeology Society preserve and interpret Florida's heritage!

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Check One:

Individual (\$20) _____ **Sustaining Individual (\$50)** _____ **Family (\$35)** _____

Student (\$5) _____ **Life (\$500)** _____

Donation to Support SWFAS Speakers and Programs _____

Skills, training, interests: _____

I hereby agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Southwest 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:

Charlie Strader
SWFAS Treasurer
27655 Kent Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

REV. 12052017

FAS Membership

Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals who are willing to abide by the Florida Anthropological Society Statement of Ethical Responsibilities, which can be found on our website: fasweb.org. Membership is for one year.



MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Student*	\$15
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 student ID must accompany payment

- Add \$25.00 for foreign addresses

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I wish to make a donation to:

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

Signature _____ Date _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Send Membership Form and Dues Payment to:
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Membership dues can be paid with PayPal.
To submit your membership form electronically and pay with PayPal,
go to the Membership form page on our website: fasweb.org.

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