

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - NEWSLETTER -

Travis F. Doering, Editor

Vol. I, No. 2

JUNE 1985

THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society will be held at the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, (Community Room), 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, Florida, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 20th, 1985.

A presentation by the SWFAS members who recently returned from the Yucatan and Campeche States of Mexico will be featured. The study and observation of numerous Mayan sites in the Puuc and Chenes areas will be reviewed. In what may be the finest photographic record in the Society's history, the archeology, architecture, flora and fauna of the Yucatan peninsula, are a few of the topics to be covered. There will be areas of interest to everyone, so be sure to bring your friends for a rich and exciting evening.

THE following is a brief description of the trip to Mexico which was taken by ten Society members from May 23rd to June 2nd. The ancient Maya sites of Uxmal, Labna, Sayil and Kabah in the Puuc Region were seen. They are well restored and are frequently visited by tourists. Lesser known, but equally beautiful sites such as the Cave of Loltun, Acanceh, Chac, and Keucic were also seen. Chenes style architecture was observed at the remote sites of Hochob, Dzibilnocac and Tohcok. Edzna, which has a long history which included numerous styles and art work, was very impressive.

AT the city of Campeche, founded by the Spanish in early 1500, the forts and walls that defended the old colonial city from pirate invasions are readily seen in contrast to the new and modern government complexes rising side by side a few 100 feet from the Gulf of Mexico. Throughout the trip, the group stayed in the finest accommodations and enjoyed the most delectable Mexican cuisine. Shopping was enjoyed in the small towns known for their crafts, as well as the cities and their thriving mercados or markets.

MUSEUMS, bookstores, and botanical gardens were frequently visited in the journey that took the group from small villages like Kancab, close to Chacmultun and Dzibilchen, near the Tabesqueno ruins, to the rapidly expanding cities of Campeche and Merida. Sites, events and memorable moments too numerous to list here will be discussed at this coming meeting. In a short time an extensive written record of the entire trip will be made available. So watch for more details in future issues of the Newsletter.

ANALYSIS SESSION June 23, 1985 @ 10:00 a.m., J. Beriault Residence

THESE get-togethers will let you examine and categorize the artifacts from the sorting sessions. You will be able to assist in the reconstruction of South Florida Prehistory. (Call J. Beriault, 261-0295)

SORTING SESSION July 9, 1985 @ 5:30 p.m., J. Beriault Residence

THESE meetings will allow you the first hand experience of sorting & classifying the materials from excavations, test pits, and other collections the Society has amassed. (Call J. Beriault, 261-0295)

SITE FORM MEETING July 16th, 1985 @ 6:30 p.m., C. Strader Residence
THESE meetings not only include the completion of site forms, but we discuss possible future activities of the Society. (Call 992-6133)

JULY MONTHLY MEETING July 18, 1985 @ 7:30 p.m., First Federal of Ft. Myers, Community Room, Naples, Florida.

MAY MONTHLY MEETING

THANKS are in order to Charter Society Member, John Beriault, for his excellent slide presentation on Big Munson Key and the recent archeological work that took place there. Those in attendance were treated to an exceptional photographic essay on the Key itself as well as a description of its past and present inhabitants. John's camera work is well known and May's program displayed his skill and knowledge again. Thanks for a great evening.

MINUTES OF SWFAS MEETING May 16, 1985

ON May 5, 1985, three sites in the Estero Bay were surveyed by John Beriault, sons James and Andrew, and Charlie Strader, which will be documented at the next Site Form meeting.

A triple beam balance scale is now available for sorting, and the water sorting system created by Art Lee works excellently per President's rep.

THE Society extended personal thanks to Travis and Joyce Doering for the considerably expanded newsletter. Members were urged to contribute to its success by submitting articles, etc.

SPECIAL thanks were extended to Keith Waterhouse for his presentation of our work at the Hell's Gate Burial Mound to the Florida Academy of Sciences which met in St. Petersburg.

THE President, Charlie Strader, updated the Hell's Gate material by reporting that we now have a copy of the Florida State Museum's findings on the site which members may request through our SWFAS Library; the loan system for the library is planned to be computerized in the near future for easier retrieval of reference material.

THE President thanked John Beriault and Gail Strader for their work in compiling information which led to publication of the SWFAS Review/ A Chronology of Events which outlines the work of our Society since its inception.

KAY Ashford was also thanked for her personal membership drive which has recruited at least four new members and possibly two more in the future.

GYPSY Graves, Director of the Museum of Anthropology in Ft. Lauderdale has become our first Contributing Membership to date.

A comprehensive survey of the Bonita Bay tract is under way, having commenced approximately 1½ weeks prior to meeting date, with 7 or 8 sites recorded. By the end of June, the Society will need maximum participation by all available members to investigate these sites. Weekends planned will be announced our next meeting.

THE Site Form committee may expand its ability to submit site forms to the state as the result of a newly formed Collier County Archeological Council, based on the need for Collier County Planners to have more detailed information on site locations. Further information will be provided as available.

Barbara Logie, Secretary

SWFAS TRIP TO LIGNUM VITAE AND INDIAN KEY

ON May 11th & 12th, 1985, SWFAS participated in a jointly-sponsored fieldtrip with the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida to two islands lying off upper and lower Matecumbe Keys in the Florida Keys.

WE arrived in the Keys during a heavy rainstorm that rapidly transformed itself into blue skies and white clouds for our afternoon tour. We were taken by Florida Park Service boat via a winding channel bordered by

coral reefs and turtle grass flats to Lignum Vitae Key, a 270 acre island covered with a beautiful hardwood hammock. We toured the historic Matheson House and a trail leading past sinkholes, tree snails, and rare vegetation such as the Lignum Vitae or ironwood tree after which the island is named. We next journeyed to Indian Key, site of the famous wrecker's town and massacre by Chekika and his band of "Spanish Indians" in 1840. Irving Eyster, past FAS president and author of the definitive book on Indian Key, gave us a personalized tour. We saw many of the old house foundations and cisterns left after the Indians raided and burned the town.

AFTER the tour it was back to Islamorada and the Islander Hotels, then to the Whale's Tail at Whale Harbor for dinner, drinks at Rotten Ralph's, and for some die-hards Trivial Pursuit at Irving Eyster's until early in the morning.

NEXT day a select few of us journeyed to Big Pine Key and inspected the famous Blue Hole, a fresh water sinkhole (cenote) teeming with alligators and large turtles amidst the unusual Caribbean pine/hardwood scrub.

WE had a great time and hope to do something like this with our friends from Miami again soon.

John Beriault

THE USAGE AND ORIGIN OF THE WORD "HAMMOCK"

HUMMOCK 1555 [Orig. naut.; source obscure. Not from hump which is much later/ 1.(a) Boss like protruberance, rising above the general level of a surface; a low hillock or knoll. 1555. (b) A sand hill on the sea shore, 1793. (c) Geol. An elevated or detached boss of rock, 1808. (d) A protruberance on an ice field or floe, 1818. 2. in Southern U.S. an elevation rising above a plain or swamp and often densely covered with hardwood trees; a clump of such trees on a knoll. (The local form in Florida, etc. is HAMMOCK) 1636.

OXFORD Universal Dictionary., 3rd Edition, Ed. C.T. Onions. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press. 1955. Dates give first recorded usage. The first Florida associated usage that I can find is in 1765 in J. Bartram's journal of Dec. 28th, published in Stork, Accounts of East Florida. "The hammocks of live oaks and palmettos are generally surrounded by swamp or marsh." Ibid. Jan. 24th, 1766. "We observed on the north end of the lake a hammock of oaks."

WHILST the usage is clear, the origin is obscure. The ending in -ock suggests a diminutive but the hum-, ham-, or hom-, remains unexplained. Assuming it to be hum-, it may be compared to the low German HUMMIE, HUMPEL, HUMMEL, a low hill or eminence, a hump. Scandanavian dialect HUMPLOCK, a little rising ground or English HUMP. HUMMOCK, however, can not be derived from HUMP as the latter does not appear until 140 years later. The earliest form recalls another nautical work HAMMOCK; but comparison of the two words shows that neither form nor sense history favors any connection. (except perhaps that the factitious HOMACCO, hummock may have been in imitation of HAMACCO, hammock)

Keith Waterhouse

Note: At the May monthly meeting a question was raised as to the meaning of the word "hammock" and its usage in S.W. Florida's vocabulary. Keith Waterhouse, eminent surgeon and contributor to many of the leading medical journals researched the subject and graciously provided the Newsletter with his findings.

THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY is very grateful to Bonita Bay Properties and Mr. Gilkey for its generous contribution. This gift will be used to fund some of the planned examination and mapping of archaic sites set aside by Bonita Bay for study by the Society. Details of the research program will be presented soon.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lawrence & Diane Seidenstein, Ft. Myers, Florida
Linda Tracy, Marco Island, Florida
Museum of Archaeology, Gypsy Graves (Contributing Membership)

BOOKSHELF

The following three books are available from AMS Press, Inc., 56 East 13th St., NY, NY 10003. (212)777-4700

- *** Cushing, F.H., "Explorations Of Key Dwellers' Remains On The Gulf Coast of Florida", New Introduction by P. Phillips. Philadelphia, 1896. (\$22.50)
- *** Wyman, J., "Fresh Water Shell Mounds Of The St. John's River, Florida" New Introduction by J. A. Sabloff. Salem, MA. 1875. (\$32.50)
- *** Willey, G.R., "Archeology Of The Florida Gulf Coast", New Introduction by R. P. Ballen. Washington, D.C. 1949. (\$72.50)

INVESTIGATING THE VOYAGES OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Historians of the University of Florida are presently investigating and studying the voyages of Christopher Columbus between 1492-1502, to uncover the latest evidence of factual documents and sites in the New World. Project Director, Michael V. Gannon, is confident this information will be "a major breakthrough of critical importance to Columbus period scholarship". Detailed accounts of the Nina's rigging, armament and crewing are contained in a forgotten 400-page document in the Archives of the Indies in Seville, Spain. The UF Institute is also supporting archaeological work regarding Hernando de Soto's trek for gold through Florida in 1539. The Florida Division of Recreation and Parks has already marked the northern half of this trail at Inverness, Florida.

Naples Daily News, May 12, 1985

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to thank John Beriault, and Keith Waterhouse for their contributions to this month's newsletter. If you have any questions, ideas, or contributions for the Newsletter, send them to:

"SWFAS" NEWSLETTER
P. O. Box 9965
Naples, Florida 33941



Membership Application

Check One:

- Individual — \$10.00
- Family — \$15.00
- Contributing — \$25.00
- Student — \$7.50

Mail to:
SWFAS
P. O. Box 9965
Naples, FL 33941

Yes! I want to support the Southwest Florida Archeological Society in their work of preserving and interpreting the prehistoric heritage of Southwest Florida.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

Interests and Abilities: _____

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

Signature _____