



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida 33941

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October meeting

CONTRACTORS TO DESCRIBE SWFAS ROLE IN COLLIER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The role SWFAS members can play in making an inventory of Collier county's archaeological resources will be described Oct. 15 at the Society's monthly meeting at First Federal Savings and Loan building, 3201 N. Tamiami Trail starting at 7:30 p.m.

Phillip A. Werndli of Florida Preservation Services, Tallahassee, and Bob Carr, president of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc., Miami, will explain the scope of the work and how avocational archaeologists of the area can take part in it.

The project, under a contract with Collier county, is part of the local government's compliance with a state "comprehensive planning and land development regulation" act, intended to protect human, environmental, social and economic resources and to maintain "character and stability" in land use and development.

The contract covers logging and mapping archaeological sites and recording of master site forms on each. The contractors' report will include the inventory as well as analyses, goals, objectives and policies which may be used by the county to meet legal requirements.

OCTOBER TO BE BUSY MONTH FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

An opportunity to help with a detailed exploration of Galt Island in Pine Island Sound is being offered SWFAS members two successive weekends in October.

The survey will be done under the direction of Dr. William H. Marquardt of Florida State Museum, Gainesville, from Oct. 10 to Oct. 18. It will encompass preparation of a map of the island and possibly excavation of some test pits. Most of the SWFAS participants are expected to work the weekends of Oct. 10-11 and 17-18, though it will be possible to continue through the week if one desires, according to John Beriault, SWFAS president, who urged a large turn-out. Rendezvous each day of the two weekends will be at B&B Builders Supply, 3800 North Tamiami Trail, at 7 a.m.

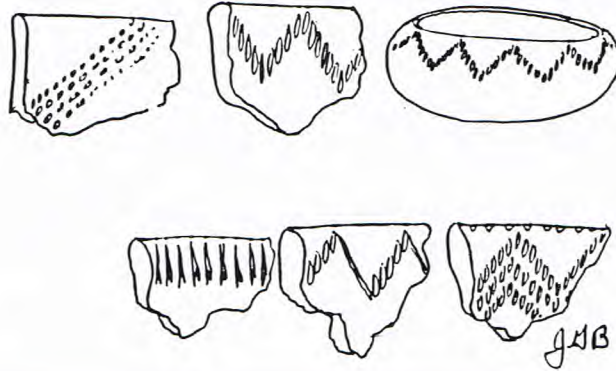
Because of the Galt Island project, exploration of the Heineken camp site of the Berkshire Lake development which had been set for the Oct. 31-Nov. 1 weekend has been postponed to the weekend of Nov. 14-15.

Addison Analysis

Progress in analyzing the wealth of material from the Addison Key dig was made by a crew working in the loft of B&B Builders Supply Sept. 26. Other sessions will be scheduled later so the report on the site can be completed.

THE POTSDHERDS WE DIG...

Not uncommon in the SWFAS screens are designs like these, scratched or dug into sand-tempered clay. Shown are sherds and reconstruction of a Sanibel Island pot, with a close relative, a Turner River linear punctate sherd at left. They date to the late Glades I, Glades II period -- ca. A.D. 500-900.



CARD FILES OF NINE UNIVERSITIES IN EASY REACH OF SWFAS RESEARCHERS

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society has been granted computer access to card files of nine Florida universities.

A letter from Michele I. Dalehite of the Florida Center for Library Automation, Gainesville, has announced the completion of arrangements for non-university researchers to access the card files. More than 50 had applied for access.

It had been hoped that non-affiliated users could be allowed to use the Department of Education's dial-access network, but that could not be done, so they, including SWFAS members, will have to pay long-distance charges. There are no other fees.

The service, called LUIS (Library User Information Service), is accessed through the Northeast Regional Data Center in Gainesville. It is available to those having one of the nine terminal types the system supports, or with a microcomputer with communications software that will emulate one of them. Also needed are a modem and telephone line.

Art Lee will be happy to provide detailed information to those with their own equipment, or to make his available to members without, provided they pay long-distance charges.

The service not only will permit a search by author, subject or title, but also will advise whether the reference desired is available or on loan, or, if new, whether it has been received.

Used in connection with local libraries' inter-library loan systems, the new service could represent a major convenience.

DATEBOOK

* Oct.10-11. Exploration of Galt Island with Dr. Marquardt of Florida State Museum. Rendezvous at B&B Builders Supply, 3800 Tamiami Trail North at 7 a.m. daily.

* Oct. 15. Monthly meeting of SWFAS at First Federal Savings and Loan building, 3201 N. Tamiami Trail; 7:30 p.m.

* Oct.17-18. Continuation of exploration of Galt Island. Rendezvous at B&B Builders at 7 a.m. daily.

* Nov.8. Site form meeting at Strader residence; 6:30 p.m.

Nov.14-15.Exploration, probably salvage excavation, at Heineken camp site of Berkshire Lake development. Rendezvous at B&B Builders 8 a.m. daily.

* Nov.19. Monthly meeting of SWFAS at First Federal Savings and Loan building, 3201 N.Tamiami Trail; 7:30 p.m.

BROODABLE

"To have arrived on this earth as the product of a biological accident, only to depart through human arrogance, would be the ultimate irony." Richard E. Leakey in Origins

SWFAS LOGO SHIRT BACKGROUND FOR A HISTORY-MAKING PHOTOGRAPH

A red polo shirt bearing the SWFAS logo has served as background for the official photograph of a stone tool that could prove to be one of the most important of American artifacts.

When Art and Lynn Lee were on a dig in Nice, France, last April, they gave a polo shirt sporting the SWFAS logo to Dr. Marie-Antoinette de Lumley, director of research for France's National Committee for Scientific Research, with whom they had worked at a different site.

Later, Dr. de Lumley took part in an expedition to a cave, la Toca da Esperanca, in the Serra Negra mountains of remote northeastern Brazil, where a quartzite chopper was found at a depth of three feet in association with animal bones which were uranium-thorium dated at 295,000 years (see SWFAS Newsletter Vol.III, No.3).

The find could revolutionize American archaeology since most hard evidence has pointed to human occupation of the Americas about 12,000 years ago, with the outside figure being 30,000. At the time Dr. de Lumley commented "It is an excellent beginning but now we need more proof."

In a September letter to the Lees she said that she had taken the SWFAS polo shirt along on the expedition and, because of its red color, had used it as a background when photos were made of the important stone tool.

"In the course of the photographic session," she wrote, "a flash gun exploded and a fragment of a broken bulb burned the shirt. I am keeping it as a souvenir of this exceptional discovery."

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Slides taken during the April dig at the grotto of Lazaret and at a Homo erectus beach campsite, both at Nice, were shown by the Lees at the September SWFAS meeting.

Archaeology in Florida

TEQUESTA TENURE PUSHED BACK TO 5,100 YEARS BEFORE PRESENT

Charcoal from the Taylor's Head mound in Weston has been dated to 2,600 to 3,100 years B.C., driving back by some 2,000 years the period of the Tequesta Indians' occupancy of the Everglades.

The new dating came from exploration of an Arvida Corporation development site by the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, which is headed by Dade County Archaeologist Bob Carr. Until now the oldest verified occupancy of the Everglades had been 3,000 to 3,900 years before present, according to Gypsy Graves of the Broward County Archaeological Society. The Everglades are believed to have been formed about 7,000 years ago.

The developers have agreed to save the site and set aside \$10,000 for its excavation and protection. Graves says there are two other major sites at Weston. Miami Herald

WARM SPRINGS EXPLORATION DEEP SUBJECT

Tallahassee - The deepest underwater research into Florida's early history -- 230 feet -- is being carried out at Warm Mineral Springs in Sarasota county under the direction of Florida State University's Anthropology Department Chairman J. Anthony Paredes. A once-dry ledge now 45 feet below the surface was used as a burial area 9,000 to 12,000 years ago, and dry-land excavations have uncovered stone tools and fossils 6,000 to 10,000 years old. The most promising site is a silt cone at the bottom of the springs; because of its depth, dives are monitored by television. AP

REVISED LAW TO HELP PROTECT BURIAL SITES

A newly-revised law which went into effect Oct. 1 will be a major tool in helping protect remaining prehistoric burial sites from looters.

Amendments to Chapter 872, Florida Statutes, "Offenses Concerning Dead Bodies and Graves", clearly include Native American burial mounds and other features "containing human skeletal remains or associated burial artifacts" under its protective provisions.

It also changes the descriptions of punishable acts from "wanton and malicious" to "willful and knowing", making it easier to prosecute grave robbers.

Strengthening of the law represents the culmination of years of effort by archaeologists, anthropologists, and Florida's Native Americans.

The Journals

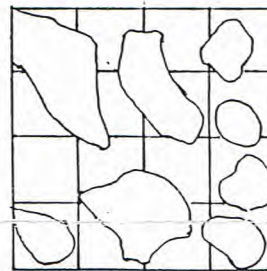
TINY ROCK CHIPS NEW TOOL IN ANALYSIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Microdebitage and Archaeological Activity Analysis; Elizabeth D. Vance; Archaeology, July/August 1987; pp. 58-59.

For some time archaeologists have recognized the value of debitage -- the flakes produced in the process of knapping stone, bone, or, as in southwest Florida, shell, into tools. Its presence means that a general area was used for the production of points or cutting edges.

But in analyzing archaeological sites closely it becomes important to be able to identify the exact place used for manufacture. Mrs. Vance, for example, cites the case of a longhouse near Seattle, Wash., supposedly occupied by several families. From artifacts found it was presumed that areas I and IV were used by stone-workers. However, analysis of microdebitage showed that areas III and IV were the ones probably occupied by the flintknappers.

Difference between microflakes and sand can be seen in this sketch. The four objects at left are microdebitage, with pronounced angles and a generally "flakey" appearance. The four in column at right are sand grains, noticeably rounder. The grid squares are one millimeter in size.



When stone tools are created, unusable flakes are produced; these are readily recognized by their characteristic form and constitute the generally known debitage. Also produced are dust, of importance mostly to the worker who can develop silicosis from inhaling too much of it, and flakes or chunks less than one millimeter in size.

In a technique developed in the past few years, archaeologists now are salvaging and plotting the tiny flakes. The process consists of placing a sample of soil in a beaker with soap or another dispersant to break up dirt clods and float off the fine particles. The sample then is washed in a fine screen and the remainder examined under a microscope. The particles formed by knapping can be distinguished by their flake, or angular chunk, form, quite different from the accompanying sand particles, which tend to be rounder from erosion.

Importance of the new technique is that it has become apparent to investigators that a good deal of housekeeping was done in prehistoric households, and much lithic debris was dumped into midden heaps, or shoved out of place by feet, whereas the microdebitage was so small that it was left in place, permitting a closer analysis of site use.

FORT MYERS MUSEUM HAS CROWDED SCHEDULE

A number of events of interest to history buffs have been scheduled by the Fort Myers Historical Museum, 2300 Peck Street, for October and November. Oct.25 Writer Betsy Zeiss talks about the history of the north bank of the Caloosahatchee river; a display on railroading in Southwest Florida will open Oct. 15; Preservationist Gladys Cook Schneider will discuss the Florida Preservation Trust Nov. 1; Nov.8 Author Elaine Jordan will present the history of Pine Island and Nov.15 Author Betty Hawkins will tell about the people and history of Southwest Florida. For details, phone 332-5955.

FINESCREEN

SWFAS member Lindsey Williams' recently-published book Boldly Onward is to be reviewed in either the October or January issue of the Florida Historical Quarterly.

Marilyn Masson, who described a lithic industrial dig in Belize to SWFAS in June, is pursuing her masters program. at Florida State University at Tampa. She supervised surveys for the Historical and Archaeological Conservancy in South Florida the past several months.

Sharlane "Sunny" Jackson has picked up the baton from Isabelle Waterhouse and now is the official SWFAS Tee Shirt Vendor.