

Newsletter



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida 33941

Arthur R. Lee, editor

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February meeting

DEVELOPMENT FOR PRESENT NEEDS; CONSERVATION OF PAST TREASURE

How Lee county is arranging to preserve historic and prehistoric sites while accomodating its share of the 1,000 people who each day move to Florida will be described Feb.18 at the monthly meeting of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society at 7:30 p.m.in the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft.Myers building, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples.

Speaker will be William M. Spikowski, acting director of the county's Division of Planning. He has received a report by Piper Archaeological Research, Inc., contracted to the county to make an archaeological site inventory and draft elements of a management plan. Now, Spikowski is developing proposals to implement suggestions included in and rising from that report.

Meanwhile, in Ft.Myers, SWFAS President John Beriault was scheduled to address the Lee County Historical Preservation Commission Feb.15 on archaeology and its relationship to Lee county. His presentation includes slides of Galt Island and Mound Key and emphasizes importance of the county's prehistoric resources.

RECEPTION MARCH 1 TO MARK INAUGURATION OF CRAIGHEAD LAB

A reception which will give SWFAS members a chance to look over the renovated Craighead laboratory on the Collier County Museum grounds has been set by the board of directors for 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1. At a Feb.9 meeting the board voted a cookies-and-coffee affair to mark the putting into operation of the facility. Invitees will include members of the board of county commissioners, officials of the Friends of the Museum, and employees of the county public administration office and Museum.

Since being given official permission Jan 21 to work on the building SWFAS crews have put in some long hours.

To make room for the workers, three loads of materials stored in the lab building by the Museum were removed via Charlie Strader's pickup truck to temporary storage. Then a carpenter hired by SWFAS installed wall panels, a second layer of plywood to reinforce the floor, and plywood ceiling panels after joists were moved to accomodate recessed flourescent lights.

A sink and countertop set was installed, and a vinyl floor covering was to be laid Feb.11 to replace the building's worn carpeting, permitting casing of doors and windows and placing of floor trim. The new ceiling was painted and trimming was placed over joints. Framing of the glass in windows and doors was painted with a "pickling" by a crew assembled by Virginia Beville. Joe Long undertook weather proofing of a "test pit profile" created by John Beriault on the replica Indian mound at the side of the lab building.

Plans call for fabrication of work tables, storage trays and drying racks, and extension and re-covering of the countertop. New back stairs are to be built by Guy Fischer.

Workers included Walt Buschelman, Leo Ruble, Charlie Strader, Travis Doering, Jack Thompson, Joe Long, Virginia Beville, Mary Ruth Winchell, Virginia Read, Elvin Konen, Alice Ash, Art Lee.

**COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM
FORMALLY OPENS FEB.15**

SWFAS members are invited by the Friends of the Collier County Museum to the February 15 opening of the completely renovated and enlarged facility, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The museum, located on the County governmental complex on east Highway 41 at Airport road, has been moved, increased in size, and its exhibits completely remounted in the past year, thanks to efforts of the Friends of the Museum and the staff.

To the permanent exhibit area has been added a locomotive once used in logging in the area, a Seminole village, an Indian mound cut away to represent a corner of an archaeological test pit, done by SWFAS members, and the Craighead laboratory building.

BY-LAWS CHANGED; OFFICERS ELECTED

The annual meeting of SWFAS Jan.21 saw officers proposed by a nominating committee elected, and a number of changes in the By-Laws approved. The current slate is John G. Beriault, president; Gary Susdorf, first vice president; Doug Messineo, second vice president; Barbara Logie, recording secretary; Lynn Lee, corresponding secretary; and Jack Thompson, treasurer. Anne Waterhouse and Art Lee were elected trustees. Holdover trustees are (figures represent years of their three-year terms): Joe Long (2), Eleanor Young (2), Charlie Strader (3) and Mary Winchell (3). Committee heads appointed include: Field, Beriault; Laboratory and Newsletter, Lee; Public Relations, Dorothy Thompson; Hospitality, Isabelle Felsberg.

OF TIME AND THE DIGGER

The archaeologist deals with several types of time:

There's chronological time, told, in large increments by the geologists who read layers of the earth's skin, and in smaller increments by scientists who mark the ticking of chemical and physical clocks, such as decay of radioactive elements, and who count the growth rings of trees.

Then there's cultural time, marked by the appearance and disappearance of groups of people, identified by distinctive artifacts they leave behind.

Those cultures measured time in their own ways, marking movement of the sun and moon to clock the year's progression and sorting the result in ways suited to their needs: The hunters' moon of the Plains warrior, the little people carrying packages of hours and days envisioned by the time-obsessed Mayan people.

Such concepts were described to SWFAS members attending the January meeting by president John Beriault, who then brought the subject closer to home by listing the cultural divisions of the area's prehistory, showing designs of the pottery by which they are identified, and illustrating his point by distributing drawings showing various levels of the Addison Key test pits and the types of sherds that appeared in them.

THE POTSHERDS WE DIG . . .

A fairly late-comer to the Southwest Florida scene was the pottery shown at right, an Englewood-like zoned punctate. The design is made of small depressions arranged in triangular fields. Vessel walls are fairly straight. It dates to possibly as late as A.D. 1400.



THE WISH BOOK

The Smithsonian Institution Press' year-end catalog Anthropology, Archaeology and Museum Studies is out with titles of interest to SWFAS members:

One is Artifacts of the Spanish Colonies of Florida and the Caribbean, 1500-1800, Vol.I: Ceramics, Glassware, and Beads, by Kathleen Deagan, 232 pp., illustrated; cloth \$35, paper \$19.95.

Another is People of the Bat, Maya Tales and Dreams from Zinacantan by Robert M. Laughlin and Carol Karasik; 282 pp., cloth, \$24.95.

Classics listed include Indians of the Southeastern United States by John R. Swanton; 1946; 1,068 pp., paper \$27.50, and Final Report of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission; Swanton; a 1939 congressional committee report; 400 pp. paper \$19.95.

Address is Smithsonian Institution Press, Dept.900, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214; add \$1.75 for postage on first book, .50 for each additional volume.

FIRST STEP IN PROTECTION-- FILING THE SITE FORM

About once a month, Charlie Strader will pull out the SWFAS collection of maps, assemble record books and pencils, and greet Society members as they straggle into his living room.

Business of the evening -- filling out site forms, the blanks used for recording archaeological and historical areas and getting them placed on the files maintained by the State Division of Archives, History and Records Management, in the Secretary of State's office.

As of this writing the Society has placed in the state office's files the location and other data about exactly 100 sites of archaeological interest. Information comes from Society members who have found sites in exploring Collier and Lee counties; the greater part have come from John Beriault, who has behind him decades of surveying this area, but this is a game any number can play.

Why this effort? As Strader puts it: "Without such a listing, the various state, regional and county regulating agencies will have no knowledge of a site when development permits and plans are reviewed. The best hope for cultural resource management occurs when sites are addressed at the initial phases of permitting instead of when a bulldozer runs through them."

The sites that have been recorded are a varied lot: Coastal shell mounds, inland sand mounds, in mangrove swamps, on hardwood hammocks, on barrier islands; the one thing they hold in common is evidence that the area was used by pre-historic (or historic) people. And they're not necessarily in out-of-the-way locations: Strader has filed a report on his own back yard, which happens to occupy a major shell mound.

It's not necessary to test an area before reporting it: Much can be told by its appearance or the presence of artifacts or refuse of meals. Called for by the state's forms are location, type of site, name and address of the person reporting the site, topographical setting, local vegetation, date visited, type of investigation (walking survey is the most commonly used phrase), degree of site destruction and possible future threats to it, whether by nature or by man. The form has places for noting artifact types found on the site, cultural classification and period, site size and elevation and distance to water and possible fresh water sources. Photographs and narrative descriptions are welcomed, though not necessary.

Urging SWFASers to participate, Strader points out that everyone is welcome to the site form meetings, which are announced in the Newsletter, adding "The importance of recording sites cannot be over-stressed. The SWFAS is more than willing to answer questions and help anyone gain the satisfaction of recording a site and knowing that they have taken the first step in preserving our non-renewable cultural resources."

DATEBOOK

- * Feb.15. Open house of Collier County Museum, Governmental complex, Tamiami Trail South and Airport Road; 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- * Feb.15. John Beriault addresses Lee County Historic Preservation Commission; Public Library, 2050 Lee St., Ft.Myers; 4 p.m.
- * Feb.18. Monthly meeting of SWFAS at First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft.Myers, 3201 North Tamiami Trail, Naples; 7:30 p.m.
- * March 1. Reception for SWFAS members and county officials at Craighead laboratory, county museum grounds, 5-7 p.m.
- * March 8. Board of Directors meeting at residence of Eleanor Young, 4956 Esplanade, Bonita Springs; 6:30 p.m. All SWFAS members welcome.
- * March 17. Monthly meeting of SWFAS at First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft.Myers, 3201 North Tamiami Trail, Naples, 7:30 p.m.

SWFAS DIRECTORIES NOW ON SALE

At the request of many, a directory of SWFAS members has been printed and will be on sale, to members, at monthly meetings for \$1.

HONOR ROLL

The following contributed to this issue of the Newsletter: Isabelle Felsberg, Anne Waterhouse, John Beriault, Charlie Strader.

**THERE'S MANY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECRET
HIDDEN ON THE SURFACE OF ARTIFACTS**

A Rock Varnish Interpretation of Alluvial-fan Development in Death Valley, California; Ronald I. Dorn; National Geographic Research, winter 1988; pp.56-73.

Blood From a Stone; Michael Dolzani; Mammoth Trumpet Vol.3 No.4;pp.1-8.

Tools Hint of Man's Presence in Florida 27,000 Years Ago; Barbara Purdy; Miami Herald, March 1987.

"Save the surface and you save all" was the theme of a series of advertisements published by a paint company some years ago. The same is proving true in archaeology.

Dr.Purdy's recent controversial suggestion that man might have lived in Florida 27,000 years ago, about twice the age normally given to such occupation, was based on analysis of the weathering on the surface of stone tools found about a meter deeper than artifacts known to be 8,500 years old. The observation was based on the fact that with time iron leaches out of the interior of stone, forming a deposit on the surface which can be measured. In comparison to her projection, the Old Cutler Ridge in South Dade county contained evidence of possible human occupancy as early as 9,000 years B.C., and probable occupancy at ca.8000 B.C.

Dr.Dorn's analysis of rock varnish on Quaternary alluvial fans in Death Valley revealed that three cycles of sedimentary deposition there were controlled by both climactic changes and tectonic activity. Varnish on rocks is a coating composed of clay minerals, manganese and iron oxides, and trace elements. It is formed by microbes' concentration of manganese and iron which subsequently is fixed to the rock surface by minerals in the accompanying clay. Minimum ages of deposits are provided by radiocarbon and other analyses of the varnish. Fluctuations in the paleoenvironment are determined by microchemical, isotopic, and structural analyses.

Since 1980 Tom Loy of British Columbia has been examining the blood residue he has found on prehistoric stone tools. Working alone, he has developed techniques for crystallizing the hemoglobin in blood scraped from knives and projectile points by dissolving the residue in a solution of salts and other chemicals. Dried, it forms crystals that allow identification of the species of animal it came from. With his techniques, further, he sometimes also can pinpoint the drainage basin from which it came.

The preservation sequence goes like this: The serum albumin of the blood, as it dries on the tool, disintegrates into strands that bond to the stone surface. When the tool is abandoned the soil partially rehydrates the surface layer so that dust, clay and soil particles can bind to the blood protein, forming a protective layer preventing decay. Initially Loy, using a microscope, was able only to distinguish animal from plant residue. Then he came across a technique for crystallizing hemoglobin to identify the species of animal it came from. He has expanded that technique, and is currently working on this poser: How to identify hemoglobin of extinct species. In view of his findings, he advises archaeologists not to wash cutting tools, just air dry and clean them with a soft camel-hair brush.

JOIN THE PARENT ORGANIZATION

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society is a member chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, whose members are interested not only in archaeology but ethnology, physical anthropology, cultural anthropology and associated topics as well.

Membership carries with it a subscription to the quarterly journal The Florida Anthropologist and makes you eligible to attend the annual meeting which includes a full day of papers on the above-mentioned subjects plus workshops. The next meeting, the 40th, will be at the Ramada Inn, Altamonte Springs, near Orlando, May 6-8. There will be a prehistoric exhibit in the Lock Haven Park area and tours will include the Orlando Science Center, Orlando Art Center and Orange County Historical Museum.

To join, mail this form to: "Membership Secretary, FAS; 308 6th St. NE; Largo, FL 34640".

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP, FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am a member of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society.

Regular (\$12) _____ Family (\$18) _____ Sustaining (\$25) Patron (\$100) _____

Make check payable to: Florida Anthropological Society.