

Newsletter



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 9965, Naples, Florida 33941

Arthur R. Lee, editor

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April meeting

MAKE AN ARROWHEAD... BLOW ON A CONCH HORN

Ever wonder how the native Americans made arrowheads and spear points?
Ever wonder what Beethoven would sound like played on a conch shell horn?

All will be revealed at the SWFAS April meeting, starting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, in the Community room of the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples.

The program will be presented by Richard Workman of Fort Myers, who has had a long-term interest in the way people used materials natural to their environment. Not satisfied with reading about these practices, he followed the example of anthropologists Frank Cushing and Louis Leakey by developing skill in the manufacture of flaked tools. On his own he learned conch shell playing.

Workman studied anthropology in Southern California. An environmental consultant, he is author of Growing Native, a book on coastal plant communities. He is a former director of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

Business of the meeting will include voting on a proposal to amend the Society's by-laws to include three new categories of membership.

HIT UP YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS FOR GOODS FOR THE APRIL 23 GARAGE SALE

"Everybody has things they want to get rid of, but not enough to have their own garage sale and they're happy to get rid of them."

So says Barbara Logie, who is directing the SWFAS garage sale April 23, urging members to solicit goods from friends and neighbors for the event, which will be held in the parking lot of the First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

She reported to the Board of Directors meeting April 12 that she has applied to the city for the necessary permit, and Treasurer Jack Thompson said he has arranged for use of the parking lot. Arrangements were made at the meeting for signs and trestle tables, courtesy of B&B Builders Supply and Charlie Strader's truck.

From reports of those present, prospects are good for the event, with a considerable amount of goods already promised, ranging from furniture to a typewriter, via a microwave oven.

Thompson reminded members that a successful sale is necessary to replenish a treasury depleted by costs of setting up the Craighead lab so that normal activities such as the newsletter can be continued.

SWFAS INVITED TO HELP MARQUARDT ON PINE ISLAND SURVEY, MAJOR DIG

SWFAS members have been invited to assist on a major investigation of a site at the residence of Col. Donald Randell on Pine Island, and a survey of a development area at Bokeella.

By telephone, SWFAS members living in the Pine Island area have been alerted to the Bokeella survey which will take place from Friday April 15 to Sunday April 17. It will cover an area next to the Bocilla Island Club for which construction is planned. Other members wishing to participate -- and SWFAS as a whole has been invited to help -- will use the Bokeella post office as a rendezvous. The survey will include a walk-over, shovel testing and possibly test pits. Participants will be reimbursed for their gasoline upon presentation of receipts.

In May, digging on the major mound site on the Randell property will begin Thursday the 12th and will continue through Saturday the 21st, with the 22nd devoted to backfill. The press will be invited on Friday the 20th.

A number of Pine Island residents, SWFAS members and others, have expressed an interest in helping. In an effort to spread out the work crews through the period Dr. Marquardt is sending them a self-addressed envelope to return with their expected dates of participation. Those who have not received this mailing should write him advising of days they will be available. His address is "Dr. William H. Marquardt, Anthropology, Florida State Museum, Museum Street, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611."

For those not wanting to drive back to the Naples area every night, there are motels in the Cape Coral and Fort Myers areas, and some SWFAS members who live on Pine Island have offered their spare bedrooms.

Since there will be a number of test pits, Dr. Marquardt is interested in recruiting as many experienced personnel as possible.

CRAIGHEAD LAB STARTS OPERATION AFTER COMPLETION OF REQUIRED CONSTRUCTION

The Craighead lab is in operation.

Tuesday, April 5, the last screw was driven into a folding screen permitting visitors to the Collier County museum to step inside the front door of the Craighead laboratory for a look-see even when the building is unattended. The next day, Wednesday, April 6, a group of SWFAS members met to set up a provisional schedule for operations.

The apparatus, looking like three oversized screen doors with hog-sized mesh, hinged together and to one wall and padlocked to another, had been required by the county as a supplement to the window-wall on the porch side to insure museum-goers a good view of the building's interior. Its completion represented fulfillment of the Society's obligation to bring the building up to Museum standards by the contract deadline.

Work on the building, funded in part by the Friends of the Collier County Museum, has included constructing the foundation, new exterior facing, porch, and roof; central air conditioning, renewed electrical wiring with recessed fluorescent fixtures, new ceiling and wall panelling, supplemental flooring and laboratory-quality floor covering, large back porch and steps, and construction of an Indian shell mound with a cut-away section.

The group -- nucleus of the Society's laboratory committee -- worked Monday, April 11, and Thursday, April 14. It tentatively is planned to have sessions at 9 a.m. each Thursday, and at 2 p.m. Saturdays. Evening sessions may be added later.

Initially the group is cleaning, sorting, weighing and measuring material removed from two nine square-meter test areas of the Pelican Bay project. Its second task will be to curate material salvaged from a Bonita Bay site in late March. Workers are following a draft of laboratory procedures which has been presented to the Board of Directors for their approval. A schedule has been set up for feeding pottery data into a computer; similar schedules are being worked on for food shell and shell tools, lithics, and bone.

Those attending the first session included Alice Ash, Jean Belknap, Virginia Beville, Mary and Walt Buschelman, Art Lee and Virginia Read.

More volunteers are needed. For more information and/or up-to-date schedules call Art Lee at 261-4939 or Jean Belknap at 775-9797.

BROODABLE....

". . . archaeologists do not and should not dig unless they can expect to fully record and then publish their findings." Chase, A.F. and D.Z., and Topsey, in Archaeology, Vol.41 No.1.

FIELD COMMITTEE SURVEYS GOODLAND, SALVAGES ARTIFACTS, FINDS NEW SITE

John Beriault's Field committee has been busy --

March 12 a team surveyed four locations at a proposed marina development at Goodland, two elevated sites and two filled well or privy vaults in one area and a third elevated site in another. Surveyers were Alice Ash, Beriault, Jean Belknap, Walt Buschelman, Wayne and Shirley House, Rick Joyce, Art and Lynn Lee, Gloria Sajgo, Charlie Strader, Keith and Anne Waterhouse, Mary Ruth Winchell, and Suzan Watts.

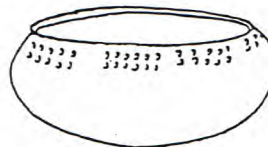
March 19 a group searched through spoil piles at the Hendon site at the Bonita Bay Properties development on the north bank of the Imperial river for artifacts left by recent excavation. Recovered were manatee bone, a deer antler, shell tools, sherds of native pottery and Spanish olive jar ware, and a stone plummet. Especially interesting were sherds found in association with a peat deposit. Participants were Ash, Belknap, Beriault, Virginia Beville, the Houses, Pat Snearley, Strader, and Winchell.

In addition, Beriault has reported discovery of a new major site in the Fakahatchee area.

Meanwhile, other SWFASers passed out folders and talked archaeology to visitors at the Conservancy's environment weekend March 18-20 at the Nature Center in Naples. A photo exhibit was erected near the Conservancy store and T-shirts with the SWFAS logo were offered for sale. Staffing the exhibit were Mary Buschelman, Barbara Harris, Leo Ruble, Belknap, Beriault, Joe Long and Kate Muldoon.

THE POTSDHERDS WE DIG ...

In the mid to lower levels of Addison Key were found punctate sherds, some of a type identified by John Beriault, who has described the site, as Fort Drum, with its dots pressed into two lines below the rim. Another had its impressions grouped into zones. Both types were from shallow, horizontal ovoid vessels.



JAB



DRAMA OF EGYPTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY RELATED BY NAPLES AUTHORITY

The double drama revealed when the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamen was opened in 1922 was told a capacity SWFAS audience at their March 17 meeting by John A. Soldavini, a Naples certified public accountant and student of Egyptology.

Initial drama was the tomb itself, a rare instance of recovery of a complete array of funerary trappings with their lavish content of gold, precious gems and wood -- a rare item in the barren area. The find fired the public imagination at the time and the period of the 20s saw "King Tut" themes repeated in widely varied fields, he reminded his audience.

The second drama unfolded when carvings within the tomb revealed that a 14th century B.C. gap in the known dynastic succession had been caused by erasure of the names of pharaohs associated with an attempt to replace the old gods by the single god Aton.

Soldavini's presentation included a vivid over-view of Egyptian history and its study, and included slides of the treasures recovered from the tomb of Tutankhamen.

BERIAULT NAMES BENEDICT TO EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Paul L. Benedict has been appointed chairman of the SWFAS Education committee by President John Beriault. As such he will handle contacts with schools and county education administrators.

The newly-retired educator has had 20 years of college and university, and 21 years of public school teaching, in addition to such varied experience as directing the National Student Exchange program and developing programs for senior citizens. He was educational consultant for four major historical restorations and his many writings include a teachers guide to Colonial Williamsburg.

The Board of Directors has promised full support to his preparation of materials that will be needed in working with school groups. Education in appreciation and preservation of the area's pre-history is a major objective of SWFAS.

HELP WANTED

SWFAS needs:

A librarian to put in order the Society's book and vertical files and to set up a loan system; enthusiasm is more important than experience;

A computer operator to establish and operate a system for recording material on artifacts and site information; an Apple-compatible machine is available as are programs.

In both cases, hours will be of the applicant's choosing; working conditions excellent; associates congenial; work will be at the Craighead lab; pay -- generous appreciation.

Charlie Strader, 566-2133 days, 992-6133 evenings, has information on library needs; Art Lee, 261-4939, on computerization.

DATEBOOK

* April 8-10. Survey of development area at Bokeella with Dr. Marquardt. Those wishing to help will gather at the post office there at 9 a.m. Friday the 8th.

* April 14 and 16. Curation work at Craighead lab; 9 a.m. the 14th, 2 p.m. the 16th. It is currently planned to have work sessions there every Thursday and Saturday at those hours. All invited to help; verify schedule with Jean Belknap at 775-9797 or Walt Buschelman at 775-9734

* April 18. Public lecture and slide show by Dr. William H. Marquardt at the Planetarium of the Nature Center of Lee county, 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers, at 4 p.m. Subject will be pre-history and early history of Southwest Florida.

* April 21. Monthly meeting of SWFAS at First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 North Tamiami Trail, Naples, 7:30 p.m.

* April 23. SWFAS garage sale in parking lot of First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 North Tamiami Trail, Naples, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lots of stuff! Buy lots of stuff!

* May 6-8. Annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society at the Bush Science Center building, Rollins college, Winter Park.

* May 10. Board of Directors meeting at residence of Eleanore Young, 4956 Esplanade, Bonita Springs; 6:30 p.m. All SWFAS members welcome.

* May 12-22. Major exploration of mound site at residence of Col. Randell on Pine Island with Dr. Marquardt. Participants should schedule their attendance in advance in so far as possible (see article elsewhere in Newsletter).

* May 16. Lee County Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 4 p.m. in the public meeting room, Lee County Public Library, 2050 Lee St. Fort Myers.

* May 19. Monthly meeting of SWFAS at First Federal Savings and Loan of Ft. Myers, 3201 North Tamiami Trail, Naples; 7:30 p.m.

THE WISHING WELL

The laboratory needs

Any number of rectangular plastic containers, about six to ten inches to the side and two or three inches deep, for sorting;

More folding chairs to add to those donated by Anne and Keith Waterhouse;

Two porch lights;

A double exterior flood light;

Metric calipers and rulers;

And many of the boxes in which computer paper comes; with tops.

Art Lee (261-4939) will be happy to pick up any donations.

