



Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS)

December 2019 Newsletter

<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER By John F. Furey M.A., RPA



Happy holidays to one and all from the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. Christmas 2019 in Florida is quite different than Christmas in Florida in 1539 was. The first Christmas, Catholic Mass in Florida was held that year at the winter encampment of Hernando de Soto and his conquistadores. It was in the native Apalachee village of Anhaica, what is now Tallahassee, that the Spanish and their Franciscan friars spent the Winter. Evidence for the discovery of the 1539-1540 encampment was long suspected to be in the Tallahassee area but it was not until 1987 that Division of Historical Resources archaeologist B. Calvin Jones located proof of it at the Governor Martin Site. Our December article describes the de Soto trek in Florida and beyond

while article two provides further research about the site.

SWFAS ON-LINE <http://swflarchaeology.org/>

Remember that all the old SWFAS Newsletters are on-line and at your fingertips. If you missed one or want to look up or re-read some of the articles that are in each Newsletter, go to the SWFAS On-Line site. It has become the repository of the history of our organization and you can find an interesting list of presentations, films, local sites, original archaeological essays, awards and a myriad of interesting historical information. Check it out! New, modern and historical items are being added regularly.

10,000 ISLANDS: MARGO SCHWADRON

Join us at 7 pm on January 15th at the IMAG to hear Margo Schwadron speak about the 10,000 Islands. This is an area of Florida that is difficult to access and is still archaeologically little understood.

DECEMBER FIELD TRIP: KORESHAN STATE PARK, ESTERO, FLORIDA

Our trip to Koreshan State Park scheduled for Saturday December 7, 2019 was cancelled. We plan to reschedule the trip for next year.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR 2020 DUES BY CHECK OR PAY PAL

Please remember that our sole source of income to provide these interesting archaeological and historical presentations is your dues. Dues run January to December. Dues and gifts are tax deductible.

PROPOSED NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2020

SWFAS proposes the following slate of candidates for the 2020 year. These will be voted on by members at the January 15, 2020 meeting at the IMAG:

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
Second of 3-year term:
Theresa Schober (Chapter Rep.)
Mary Southall
William Locascio
Third of 3-year term:
Colin Andrews
Tiffany Bannworth

These candidates will be voted on at the January 15, 2020 meeting at the IMAG where additional nominations from the floor will be accepted. We welcome and look forward to new people joining us.

FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

January 15, 2020

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Margo Schwadron

**Foraging, Feasts and Monuments: Investigating the Monumental Shell Work
Landscapes of the Ten Thousand Islands, Florida**

iMAG History & Science Center, 2000 Cranford Avenue, Fort Myers



The Ten Thousand Islands contain some of the largest, most complex shell midden mound constructions in the world. Over 12 years ago, Dr. Schwadron began some of the first investigation of many of these monumental sites, and over many years, through National Geographic grants, dissertation work, and National Park Service supported fieldwork, she has completed numerous investigations and specialized studies throughout the region. This talk will provide an overview of the Archeology of Ten Thousand Islands Shell Works sites, presenting a settlement pattern overview of the types of sites, chronology, and patterns of shell work communities in the region. It will feature many visuals that will allow you to see how these prehistoric fisher-hunter-gatherer communities constructed, altered, maintained and used meaningful community spaces, monuments and functional

constructions through shell works over time.

Dr. Margo Schwadron is an Archaeologist for the National Park Service who specializes in wetlands, islands, coastal archeology and shell middens in the southeastern United States, especially south Florida. Her research takes a landscape-centered approach to archaeology, incorporating large-scale archeological survey and testing, remote sensing/GIS, and integrating paleo-environmental and paleo-climate research into understanding historical ecology and the interaction of humans and environment through time. Recent work includes National Geographic funded investigation of prehistoric hunter-fisher-gatherer shell midden sites from the Ten Thousand Islands in the Everglades, Florida.



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 iMAG 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 iMAG is on the right.

SWFAS 2020 PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

2020 FEBRUARY 19, Wednesday, 7:00 pm, IMAG, Ft. Myers, FL BLACK HISTORY MONTH
David Southall, *The Black Seminoles: Caught Between Two Cultures*

2020 MARCH 18, Wednesday, 7:00 pm, IMAG, Ft. Myers, FL FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH
Xenia Kyriakou, Florida Gulf Coast University, *The Bioarchaeology of Monasticism: The Unruly Nuns of Cyprus*

2020 APRIL 15, Wednesday, 7:00 pm, Collier Museum at Government Center, Naples, FL
Robert Carr, Director, Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, *Calusa Canals*

2020 MAY, 8, 9, 10, Fri, Sat, Sun, The 72nd FAS ANNUAL MEETING: SWFAS is the host chapter

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONSERVANCY (AHC)



SWFAS has had a long-term relationship with the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy in Davie, Florida. We have often provided trained field excavation labor on local projects and laboratory assistance at the Craighead Archaeological Laboratory; and the AHC has provided oversight and publication of the excavations. Robert "Bob" Carr is the Executive Director and John Beriault, a SWFAS founder, is the West Coast Project Representative. The AHC publishes a newsletter and offers memberships to interested individuals. To join please go to <http://www.flarchaeology.com/> or contact them at archlgcl@bellsouth.net. Please consider joining.

ARTICLES

HERNANDO de SOTO 1539-1540 WINTER ENCAMPMENT AT ANHAICA APALACHEE

from Florida Division of Historical Resources at <https://dos.myflorida.com/historical/archaeology/projects/hernando-de-soto-1539-1540-winter-encampment-at-anhaica-apalachee/>



Excavations at the Martin Site in 1987

From October 1539 through March 1540, the Spanish conquistador Hernando de Soto and his expedition of more than 600 people occupied the Apalachee capital of Anhaica, located in present-day Tallahassee. Soto had come to conquer and establish a colony in La Florida, which at that time was a vague concept of a territory covering most of the southeastern United States. To accomplish his goals, Soto brought a wide array of people including soldiers, slaves, craftspeople, and bureaucrats. He also brought along a herd of swine that he intended to use for food at a planned colony. A veteran of campaigns in Central and South America, Soto was a ruthless and skilled soldier. As the governor of Cuba and holder of a royal charter to conquer La Florida, he was also one of the richest men in the world at the time. Despite his high hopes,

after months of exploring peninsular Florida, Soto had failed to find great sources of wealth, such as gold and silver, like other conquistadors had in Mexico and Peru.

Hernando de Soto's route through Florida

Soto's expedition landed somewhere in Tampa Bay in May of 1539. Two previous expeditions to la Florida had ended poorly for their leaders, Ponce de Leon and Panfilo de Narvaéz, both of whom died without finding riches or establishing colonies. In peninsular Florida, Soto found little evidence of the types of riches he sought. Soto was lured to the Apalachee territory following reports by their neighbors that the Apalachee were rich and powerful. After crossing the Aucilla River, Soto and his force pushed inland. Having had experience with conquistadors in the past, including Narvaéz's expedition 21 years earlier, the Apalachee abandoned their towns in anticipation of the Spaniards' arrival. Soto's time at Anhaica was a key turning point in his expedition. While at Anhaica, Soto reconfigured his expedition for a push into the interior. He moved supply lines and gathered intelligence on possible routes. He chose to winter in the area because he used the Apalachee's extensive food stores and buildings to feed and house his expedition. The Spaniards hoped to find riches to the north. Their oftentimes violent excursion into the southeastern United States forever changed the region and had drastic effects on the local inhabitants.



Hernando de Soto's Route through Florida

Based on the timing of their occupation of Anhaica, members of Soto's expedition likely celebrated the first Christmas mass in what would become the United States. Although there is no mention of Christmas in the chronicles, the Spanish were devout Catholics, and clergy in the party would probably have held a Christmas mass. At the time, Christmas was a more solemn affair, and it lacked many of the celebrations associated with present-day celebrations. The holiday was one of several feast days celebrated by Catholics. However, because the expedition was under frequent attack by the Apalachee, Soto and his men were likely too busy to participate in many holiday celebrations. During Christmas, Soto sent some of his men out on auxiliary expeditions to establish new supply lines for an eventual push inland. The holiday may be noted in a map associated with the expedition.



A sample of early 16th century artifacts from the Soto Winter Encampment at the Martin site. A: pieces of conserved chainmail, B: a conserved crossbow bolt, C and D: early 16th century Olive Jar fragments, E: a four Maravedi coin that dates to the early 16th century. All images were prepared by Louis Tesar.

The Apalachee territory spanned between the Aucilla to the Apalachicola Rivers, and from southern Georgia down to the Gulf Coast. The ancestors of the Apalachee who Soto encountered had long roots in the area. Five hundred years before meeting Europeans, they had built the mounds at Lake Jackson. Archaeological evidence demonstrates that the Apalachee farmed maize and focused their settlements on high ground around the red hills of Tallahassee. The Apalachee who Soto encountered are part of the archaeological "Fort Walton" culture, a term used by archaeologists to describe patterned similarities in material cultures, especially pottery styles. Accounts in the historical record suggest that the Apalachee were well known and respected by their neighbors. These chronicles describe the Apalachee province as having many towns and plentiful food. Archaeological finds corroborate this description, and there are many recorded sites dating to the Fort Walton period. The description in the chronicles fits archaeological findings showing a sprawling settlement pattern where principal towns were surrounded by hamlets and homesteads. The precise sociopolitical structure of the Apalachee remains unclear. Historic accounts suggest that their capital was located at

Anhaica, although they may have had an alternate capital at Ivitachuco, which was likely located on the Aucilla River. The chronicles give little information about the everyday life of the Apalachee. Continuing archaeological work may shed light into more aspects of Apalachee life during the early 16th century and before.

Soto's violent push through the southeastern United States would forever change the landscape of the region, decimating populations through disease and violence, and disrupting longstanding and powerful Chiefdoms. Soto never established a colony. He died of a fever and his body was placed in the Mississippi river in 1542. Half of his men survived and fled by raft to Mexico. Despite the trauma of Soto's occupation of their capital, the Apalachee survived. They reoccupied Anhaica after Soto left and were still at the town when the Spanish returned to the area in the 1600s. In 1633 the Apalachee invited Spanish Franciscan friars to the area to establish a mission. The Apalachee remained at their homeland until 1704 when they fled the region due to pressure from invading British and Creek forces. The Apalachee today live in Louisiana.

The Archaeology of the Soto Winter Encampment at Anhaica Apalachee
 Historians and archaeologists had long puzzled over Soto's expedition route. Through reconstructing distances and landmarks noted in accounts of the expedition, researchers suspected that the 1539—1540 winter encampment would be located in Tallahassee. Material evidence for Soto's expedition remained elusive until 1987, when Division of Historical Resources archaeologist, B. Calvin Jones (now deceased), decided to "poke around" a construction site on Lafayette street in Tallahassee. Calvin discovered a fragment of an early variety of Spanish Olive Jar, a type that could only date to the early 16th century. Further excavations uncovered chainmail, crossbow bolts, and 7-layer chevron beads; items that all date to the early to mid-1500s, and would not be expected in the later Mission-era Spanish settlements in the area. Mad Dog Construction generously allowed archaeologists with the State of Florida to excavate the site ahead of construction. The archaeologist Charles Ewen was brought on to oversee the excavation work alongside Calvin Jones. Findings confirmed the presence of an early 16th century Apalachee settlement along with Soto-related artifacts. The presence of fired clay with palm frond impressions from an Apalachee structure may confirm the burning of Anhaica by the Apalachee during Soto's occupation.



A sample of Apalachee artifacts from the Martin site. A: Fort Walton Incised pottery fragment, B: Carrabelle Punctate pottery fragment, C: Pinellas type projectile point, D: charred maize (Zea mays) cobs, E: burned clay with palm frond impression.

Research into the Soto winter encampment site continues. In recent years the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) has collaborated with the Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee (PAST), a local chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS), to find further evidence of the Soto encampment at Anhaica. This work has not yet yielded any finds of early 16th century Spanish material. Nevertheless, it has uncovered more evidence of the Apalachee settlement. Research efforts continue in the laboratory as well. Archaeologists at the BAR are working

with colleagues at Florida State University and the University of Florida to apply cutting-edge chemical analyses to learn more about the encampment site. BAR archaeologists are currently using an advanced form of analysis to learn about the chemical compositions of distinct seven-layer chevron beads found at the site and are comparing them to beads from other early 16th century sites in Florida in an attempt to distinguish between the beads from different early conquistador expeditions. Archaeologists at the BAR also hope to learn about the source and manufacture of these essential trade items that served as conduits for early contact between Indians and Europeans.

FURTHER RESEARCH



Since the excavation of the Governor Martin House site in 1987, archaeologists have used the presence of pig remains as a major line of evidence for the presence of the conquistador Hernando de Soto. During preparation for the expedition into La Florida, in Cuba, Soto provisioned a herd of pigs from Vasco Porcallo that was intended to serve as a mobile larder (Hudson 1997:55). The discovery of pig remains at the Martin House site was considered another line of evidence for the presence of the Soto expedition at the site. Reanalysis of the context in which the pig remains were discovered, however, revealed that they came from a less than ideal context. Rather than excavated from a secure

"closed" context, the pig remains were found in a unit with a modern metal pipe running through it. Such soil disturbances can mix artifacts from many different time periods. The Martin House site was occupied for centuries after Soto's 1539 expedition. Archeologists also found evidence of Mission era (1633—1704), and 18th and early 19th century Seminole occupations. The site was also the residence of Governor John Wellborn Martin, whose house was built in 1930. Given the disturbed context of the pig bones, they have dated to later occupation.

In order to put this question to rest, BAR archaeologist Dr. Dan Seinfeld sent the pig remains to the Center for Applied Isotope Studies at the University of Georgia for radiometric dating using an accelerator mass spectrometer. This method, called AMS dating, requires smaller samples than are needed for traditional radiocarbon dating and is more precise. This analysis showed that the pig bones had an uncalibrated ^{14}C age of 110 years BP (100 years before 1950) with a 10 error of ± 20 years. The result demonstrates that the pig died between 1820 and 1860 (with a 10 margin of error). The most likely timeframe for the pig's death was between 1831 and 1889. This timeframe is after the Seminole were pushed out of the Tallahassee area, which suggests that the pig may have been associated with early territorial settlers. Regardless of its specific year, dating shows that the pig could not have been associated with the Soto expedition. The pig more likely was associated with either Seminole or early territorial settlers in Tallahassee.

As scientists, archaeologists are committed to questioning past interpretations and being willing to change what they think is known based on new observations. This dating of the pig remains shows how archaeologists use new techniques to reanalyze earlier findings. Although the pig remains at the Governor Martin House site were not from Soto's expedition, other lines of evidence continue to support the presence of the conquistador at the site. Archaeological arguments are proven with independent lines of evidence. The discovery of crossbow bolts, mail armor, early 16th century coins, 7-layer chevron beads, and early variety olive jars proves the presence of early 16th century Spaniards at the site. Along with corroboration from historical records, pig or no pig, these artifacts support the presence of Soto's expedition at the Governor Martin House property.

SWFAS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE 2019 CALENDER YEAR

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:
Theresa Schober (Chapter Rep.)
Mary Southall
William Locascio
Second of 3-year term:
Colin Andrews
Tiffany Bannworth
Third of 3-year term:
Jan Gooding
Amanda Townsend

Find us on Facebook at Southwest Florida Archaeological Society!

Check out our 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 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 Categories

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.*

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------------|---------|
| Student * | \$15 | Sustaining | \$100 |
| Regular | \$30 | Patron | \$1,000 |
| Family | \$35 | Benefactor | \$2,500 |
| Institutional | \$30 | | |

*Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate and high school students. A photocopy of your student ID must accompany payment. **Add \$25 for foreign addresses.

Send Membership Form and Dues Payment to:

Florida Anthropological Society, P O Box 1561 Boynton Beach, FL 33425

You can join online or pay Membership dues renewals via PayPal on our website fasweb.org.

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. IS A TAX-EXEMPT 501C3 ORGANIZATION. TAX ID#59-1084419.

Name: _____

Membership Category: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FAS Chapter: _____

I wish to make a donation to:

\$ _____ Dot Moore/FAS Student Grant Fund \$ _____ Florida Archaeology Month Account

\$ _____ Florida Anthropologist Monograph Fund \$ _____ Florida Anthropologist Endowment Fund

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Signature

Date