



## Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS)

1980 to 2020 - OUR 40th YEAR

January 2020 Newsletter

<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

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



Happy New Year 2020 to all. This January SWFAS celebrates our 40th anniversary as an official organization and as a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society. A lot has happened in those forty years and we have been making much of this history available to you in SWFAS On-Line as well as continuing our local efforts at archaeological and historical preservation and education. Our informative presentations to the public on local and statewide archaeological topics, along with activism to preserve our important prehistoric Native American sites, is still a critical part of our mission in 2020. The pressure of increased development in Southwest Florida is the major destructive force at work, along with rising sea levels, that impact our many coastal sites. Once a site is destroyed, all of the data is lost and a piece of our historical legacy is gone forever. One of our articles this month highlights the threat to our coastal sites by rising sea levels. The other highlights a site where it is believed that the inhabitants were producing shell beads for trade.

### FIELD TRIP TO KORESHAN RESCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2020

Please see below for additional information on the trip. Remember that **reservations are required** for both Koreshan and lunch, and without a minimum, the trip will again be cancelled.

### DAVID E. SOUTHALL August 21, 1945 – January 7, 2020



It is with great sadness that the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) announces the passing of David E. Southall. Dave leaves behind his wife Suzy Valentine, daughter Jennifer, former spouse Mary, family and many friends, and will be sorely missed by the many people with whom he has interacted and made a difference with over the years. He contracted encephalitis which turned into pneumonia, and after a heroic 12-day battle, finally succumbed. Dave was, as he described himself, "a biologist, a naturalist and a historian". He was happiest when working with plants, but loved people and explaining history.

Dave graduated from Paul Smiths College of Forestry and the State University of New York at Buffalo with degrees in Science and Education. Following a tour of duty in Vietnam, he obtained his MS in Plant Biology from Cornell University. He was founder / CEO of a nursery, landscape, greenhouse operation and specialized in wetlands restoration and mitigation, wildlife management and invasive species control.

Dave volunteered at the museum for several years, tending their many plants, and he created a native plant garden. In 1997, Dave went to work for the Collier County Museum at Government Center in Naples, Florida. He started as a Groundskeeper but, one year later, was promoted to Education Curator. In this role Dave was able to combine his skills and personal interests in biology and history to create over 80 presentations on Florida history and natural history that he presented at local museums, rotary clubs, historical societies and at many of our SWFAS meetings. After retiring from the museum in 2011 to pursue "his bucket list", Dave worked in his greenhouse, traveled, tended his native plant collection and volunteered with the Boy Scouts. He believed that learning was fun and wanted to share his knowledge with everyone. He was a people person, a great presenter and loved doing it. We hope that his "bucket list" was empty, however, his voice was stilled way too soon. He will be missed by many.

A Celebration of Life will be held in his honor on Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 3-5pm at the Unity Church of Bonita Springs at 28285 Imperial Parkway in Bonita Springs, Florida. Dave was a long-time advocate for scouting and donations can be made in memory of David Southall to: Troop 109, First Methodist Church, Attn: Mark Cecil, Scoutmaster, 27609 Shriver Avenue, Bonita Springs, FL 34135 ([www.Troop109Bonita.com](http://www.Troop109Bonita.com)).

## FAS 2020 AT THE RITZ-CARLTON GOLF RESORT, NAPLES, FL



The year 2020 also marks another milestone; SWFAS will be the host for the 72nd annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society from May 8, 9 and 10, our fourth time as hosts! We were hosts in 1990, 2000 and 2010 and plan a memorable 2020 annual meeting. Our venue this year will be The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples, with a Friday evening Welcome Reception visit to see 'The Marco Cat' at the Marco Island Historical Museum. Please plan to attend and celebrate the return visit of 'The Cat' with us. You can book your rooms early in two ways: by phone; call 877-557-3092 and be sure to mention FAS 2020 for \$149.00 per night or, book on-line at: <https://book.passkey.com/go/FLAnthropologicalSocietyAnnual>

## ARTICLES

Our first article this month is about the discovery of a village dated from 900 AD to 1200 AD on Raleigh Island by Dr. Ken Sassman and PhD student Terry Barbour from the University of Florida. Originally located by LiDAR, the site is unique due to evidence that it was a manufacturing center for making and exporting shell beads. (A similar site in Coastal Connecticut was also found to be making wampum from local shells). Our second article describes the effects that rising sea levels will have on Florida's coastal archaeological sites.

## 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 and donations. All dues and donations are tax deductible.

## DR. MARGO SCHWADRON: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE 10,000 ISLANDS

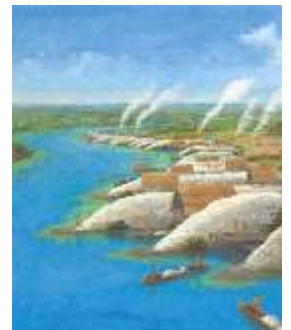


On Wednesday evening at the iMAG in Fort Myers, we were treated to a special presentation by Dr. Margo Schwadron, an archaeologist with the National Park Service (NPS) for 19 years. Dr. Schwadron first began her work in the 10,000 Islands after Hurricane Wilma made landfall on October 24, 2005 at Cape Romano. This destructive tropical cyclone was the 4th costliest storm in US history and left 98% of South Florida without electricity. Most of the 10,000 Islands is National Park Service controlled land, and the NPS wanted to assess the damage to archaeological sites in that coastal zone. Margo volunteered to research this remote, hot, damp, mangrove covered, mosquitoes and snake infested area. At that time there were no accurate maps of the area, so she enlisted the help of John

Berriault (a founder of SWFAS) to assist in mapping the area. Comparing the original map that they made on the ground with LIDAR mapping years later, it was realized how amazingly accurate the original maps were.

She started in the northern 10,000 Islands first and began mapping and testing site after site southward. It soon became apparent that the shells at these sites had been deliberately placed to make landforms in each community. There were many variations between sites and, with C-14 dating, a pattern emerged of smaller sites being older and larger sites much later. Early sites demonstrated a similar 'ring-like' construction and later sites were more complex with major mounds incorporated into their landforms. Many sites had little inlets for canoes built along the coast or a river over which a residence on stilts was built. Many had canals built to allow canoe travel into the 'island' itself, however, all of these islands were deliberately built with their discarded shells placed to produce higher landforms.

The newest sites were arranged in a linear pattern about 3 miles apart and along the shore or river. All had a similar design of indentations made of shell to provide a place to dock a canoe under the stilted structure and would measure 8-10 feet high. It appears that at about AD 1300 most of these sites were abandoned. This coincided with what is known in Europe as 'The Little Ice Age' believed to have been caused by massive amounts of volcanic ash in the air over a hundred years and was severe enough the drop worldwide temperatures and cause sea levels to drop. The cooler temperatures and receding sea levels would have affected their food supply and driven them away.



## FEBRUARY PRESENTATION

**FEBRUARY 19, 2020 Wild, Wild South: The History of Florida's Cattle Industry**

**Wednesday, 7:00 pm**

**Theresa Schober**

**IMAG History & Science Center, 2000 Cranford Avenue, Fort Myers**



In 1521, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon attempted to settle Florida at the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River. While the settlement failed, some of the expedition's cattle remained. By the 1600s, 20,000 head of cattle supported early Spanish settlements and missions. Open range, unclaimed herds, and the lawless frontier ultimately created Cattle Barons, wide-open cow towns, rustlers, and a new breed of tough cow-hunters. The story of cattle ranching in Florida reads like a "wild west" novel but is still part of the fabric of everyday life in our state.

Theresa Schober is currently manager of the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch for Collier County Museums. She holds a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Theresa specializes in collaborative planning and development of archaeological and historic sites into interactive museum and park facilities. Ms. Schober serves as an advisory board member to Florida's chapter of the National Council for History Education.

### 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 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 MARCH 21, Saturday, 10:00 am. Field Trip to Koreshan State Park - Rescheduled**  
Meet at Koreshan in Estero at 10:00 am to tour the site of the Koreshan Religious cult that established itself there in 1894. A docent will lead us and explain how they lived and their beliefs. After the tour we will meet at Rusty's Raw Bar for lunch. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Contact John Furey at [jffurey@charter.net](mailto:jffurey@charter.net).**
- 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 in NAPLES AND MARCO ISLAND**  
SWFAS is the host chapter

## ARTICLES

### SCIENTISTS DISCOVER AN ANCIENT VILLAGE OF BEAD TRADERS IN FLORIDA, OFFERING A PORTRAIT OF WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN AMERICA BEFORE COLUMBUS

From Daily Mail.com at <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-7657221/Scientists-discover-ancient-Florida-village-predates-Columbus-hundreds-years.html>

By Michael Thomsen

6 November 2019



Researchers found a number of sophisticated tools and artifacts at the dig site, including pieces of polished pottery, drills that could have been used on shells, and several different kinds of marine shell beads

This week researchers from the University of Florida published findings from an archaeological project that sheds new light on what life was like in North America before Christopher Columbus arrived. Using drones to scan the coastline of northwestern Florida, researchers discovered evidence of a settlement dated between 900 to 1200 AD. They discovered evidence of a settlement that could have supported between 200 and 300 people, who they believe worked to create beads and decorative ornaments from shells that played an important role in Mississippian culture at the time.

The settlement was discovered on Raleigh Island, halfway between Tampa and Tallahassee on Florida's northwestern coast, just outside the Cedar Keys Wildlife Refuge. The drone that discovered the settlement was equipped with a LiDAR system, according to a report by ArsTechnica. LiDAR sends out light rays and then measures the differences in how those rays are reflected back from the environment to create a three-dimensional image of the terrain. The team, led by University of Florida anthropologist Terry Barbour, identified at least 37 residential spaces, marked

out by rings of oyster shells and postholes that suggest load-bearing structures.

When researchers arrived onsite, they found a wide array of tools and other artifacts buried two feet to two and a half feet beneath the surface. Those included pottery fragments, charcoal, and remnants of drills and stone polishing tools, which they believed to have been used in creating beads and a variety of other decorative objects that were popular at the time. 'What we have here is a settlement at the source of this raw material at the time when marine shell was starting to become a heavily demanded social item,' Barbour said. 'The fact we have strong evidence of bead manufacture at a site with equally impressive architecture to guide us in understanding how production was organized socially makes this place really special, and as of now, the only place like it we are aware of.' The shells were used to make beads, decorative throat covers, cups, and embellishments for clothing, which have been found all across America, including as far north as Cahokia in Illinois. Cahokia is home to an elaborate system of earthen mounds believed to have been the site of an ancient city created by Mississippian people. The exact role of the beads and other shell-derived items isn't fully understood, but Barbour told Ars Technica that it is 'very likely that the process of making some of these shell objects themselves carried spiritual and religious prescriptions and connotations that meant the individual needed to be a specialist or priest.' 'By controlling the process of making shell objects, beads included, elites could control certain meanings and narratives surrounding beads and other objects that they were producing.'

## RISING SEAS THREATEN HUNDREDS OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE SITES ALONG FLORIDA'S GULF COAST

by Jayur Mehta and Tara Skipton, *The Conversation in PHYS.ORG*

at <https://phys.org/news/2019-09-seas-threaten-hundreds-native-american.html>

September 27, 2019



*Native American burial mound at Lake Jackson Mounds State Park, north of Tallahassee, Fla. Credit: Ebaybe/Wikipedia, CC BY-SA*

Native North Americans first arrived in Florida approximately 14,550 years ago. Evidence for these stone-tool-wielding, megafauna-hunting peoples can be found at the bottom of numerous limestone freshwater sinkholes in Florida's Panhandle and along the ancient shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico. Specialized archaeologists using scuba gear, remote sensing equipment or submersibles can study underwater sites if they are not deeply buried or destroyed by erosion. This is important because Florida's archaeological resources face significant threats due to sea level rise driven by climate change. According to a new U.N. report, global sea levels could increase by over 3 feet by the year 2100. Archaeological sites contain evidence of what people ate in the past, what kinds of houses they built, how

they buried their dead and what they did to memorialize stories, leadership and community. These places literally embody human lives, and are the only records we have of prehistoric indigenous peoples of the New World.

Between the years 1500 and 1850, 2.5 million Europeans migrated to the New World. As a consequence of their arrival, 50 million indigenous peoples died from disease, massacres and slavery. As scholars who study anthropology and archaeology, we believe that the genocide of these oral historical and literate societies, native to North, South and Central America, makes it even more important to preserve their ancient sites. Without them, we may never be able to learn the history of the first peoples of this land.

### *Valuable and vulnerable*

At present, 1,539 archaeological sites are located at or below sea level in Florida. By A.D. 2100 up to 6,820 will become submerged by sea level rise. Florida's Big Bend region—the eastern half of the Panhandle—contains 541 Native American archaeological sites, found from the coast to inland hills and river valleys. They include earthen and shell mounds and shell middens, or refuse heaps. These sites belong to Deptford, Swift Creek, Weeden Island or Fort Walton and Apalachee cultures, and represent a time period of over 2,000 years of occupation, from 500 BC to 1540 AD. Archaeological sites belonging to these cultures in the Gulf of Mexico region represent a continuation of earlier lifeways dating as far back as 7,000 years ago. But they also mark shifts in ceramic and stone toolmaking technology, and significant changes in ceremonies associated with monument construction and burial of the dead. Notable sites in this region include Mound Field, Bird Hammock and Garden Patch – places where hunter-fisher-gatherers built monuments, traded for goods and practiced crafts such as basketry and bead and pottery production.

The Garden Patch site, a barely investigated Middle Woodland shell midden and six-mound complex, is one of Florida's innumerable cultural resources at risk. With roughly 5 to 6 feet of additional sea level rise, most low-lying areas at the site will be flooded, and saltwater will kill grasses and trees. With no tree cover or vegetation, the site's mounds, middens and mortuary remains will erode away and be permanently destroyed.

There are cost-effective ways to stabilize the site and make it more resilient to climate change. They include planting salt-tolerant grasses and shrubs, such as spartina and saline-adapted mangroves, and building sea walls and levees to redirect water. However, studies show that hard systems like this are not always effective and can have negative environmental effects on surrounding areas. An even more effective response is raising public awareness of America's Native and Indigenous heritage, and encouraging study of these sites while they are still above water.

### *Saving stories by saving places*

Other parts of the Gulf coast, such as the Mississippi River Delta and coastal Louisiana, are comprised mainly of low-lying marshes that are extremely vulnerable to sea level rise. In contrast, Big Bend interior cities like Tallahassee will be relatively well protected by geographic features that prevent seawater from penetrating far inland. Except for

universities, hospitals and government in Leon County and Tallahassee, the main industries in the coastal Big Bend region are fishing, farming and tourism, and the population of the entire area is just 500,000. Relatively few people in this part of Florida will be affected by rising seas compared to large, low-lying cities like Tampa, Miami and Jacksonville, with a collective population of 9.6 million people.

However, infrastructure along the coast will be significantly affected. For example, St. George Island State Park, which is on a 28-mile barrier island, incurred over US\$5 million in damage from Hurricane Michael in October 2018, and the entire island will be inundated with as little as one meter, or about 3 feet, of sea level rise. American history is Native American, African American, Latino, Asian and European. Our cumulative story begins 15,000 years ago and ends when we decide. In our view, Americans and scholars have an obligation to try to save our collective histories.

By advocating for the study of the past, we hope to encourage documentation of endangered landscapes, collaborative data recording, multi-agency partnerships and acknowledgment that the U.S. is going to lose sites that are parts of its heritage. Rather than focusing on preserving singular parts of America's past, like Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in North America—which is also in a low-lying and threatened environment—we want to see lesser-known features of America's past documented and saved as well.

As we see it, Americans' collective identities are rooted in a shared past and in physical landscapes and places. That makes saving these places important. The first step is talking about them. The next step begins when scholars and the public come together to learn about the past and advocate for preserving it.

## **OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2020**

The Following Officers and Trustees were voted in at the January 15, 2020 Meeting:

### **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:

Tiffany Bannworth

***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](http://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](http://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](http://fasweb.org).*

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

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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.

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Signature

Date