Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS)
1980 to 2020 - OUR 40th YEAR
April 2020 Newsletter

http://swflarchaeology.org/

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

FAS 2020, the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) which was to take place on May 8-10 has been rescheduled to October 2-4 at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples. This was cancelled due to the Covid 19 Virus and the rescheduled date should get us past this pandemic. SWFAS is the host chapter for the FAS 2020 Annual Meeting. Please go to the FAS website https://fasweb.org/annual-conference/ for any updates on the program and to register. FAS has released the following statement:

The Board of the Florida Anthropological Society and the Southwest Florida Anthropological Society are pleased to announce the 2020 Annual Conference and Meeting has been rescheduled to October 2-4, 2020 in Naples. These dates may be subject to change or cancellation should the COVID-19 threat not be abated by that time. We will continue to monitor the situation and follow any guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control and the Florida Department of Health.

If you had previously registered for the conference and are no longer interested in attending, you may contact Charlie Strader at swfas@explorationsinc.com to request a full refund. For those who are interested in attending in October, we graciously ask that you allow us to carry over your registration fees to the October dates. We will have more information about registration soon.

If you submitted an abstract and would like to withdraw it, please contact John Furey at jffurey@charter.net to do so. We will have more information about presenting at the October conference soon, including carrying over already submitted abstracts and a new call for papers.

The Ritz-Carlton has indicated that room reservations made for May will be automatically cancelled by the hotel. Guests intending to attend the rescheduled conference will be able to rebook their rooms through the new conference link available on the FAS website in the near future.

Thanks to everyone for your patience and understanding as we've been working through these decisions the past few weeks.

The Covid 19 Virus Pandemic has been affecting our planned presentations and we are using the SWFAS Newsletter as a communication tool to keep you informed. This month we have also cancelled the April 15, 2020 Presentation at the Collier County Museum at Government Center in Naples by Bob Carr.

In this issue: Neanderthals, not the Calusa, using shell tools and eating clams? Migrations and population dynamics shaped early human culture; a new look at the Beringia land bridge. New perspectives on both the old and new world.

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN SWFAS AND FAS AND SUPPORT ARCHAEOLOGY IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

I was recently reading "Culture and Environment in the Domain of the Calusa" by William H. Marquardt that was published in 1992, 28 years ago. I was struck by the way he ended his concluding paragraph on page 432 to this seminal work. And I quote: "If there is a note of pessimism to be sounded, it is that South Florida sites, and the rich store of knowledge they contain, are being destroyed at an alarming rate as wetlands are drained and coastal habitats are irreversibly impacted. Those who have not contemplated this sad state of affairs can gain insight by reading a single page of an article by George Luer. On page 157 of Publication 12 of the Florida Anthropological Society (Luer 1986:157), Luer lists 45 sites on the southwest Florida coast, noting that the great majority are endangered or already damaged or destroyed. Those who wish to help ameliorate the situation are cordially invited to join the effort by donating time or money to support research and educational efforts, as hundreds have already done; by joining an active and principled avocational archaeological society, such as the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society or one of the other chapters of

the Florida Anthropological Society; and by letting their legislative representatives know that they support efforts to preserve, study and interpret South Florida's archaeological sites"(Marquardt, W.H., et. al. 1992:432).

We at SWFAS continue the work to save our local archaeological heritage in both Lee and Collier Counties and, a great recent example, is the purchase of the remaining privately held portion of Mound Key by Lee County by a unanimous vote of the County Commissioners. At the time that W. Marquardt wrote this SWFAS was only 12 years old; we are now in our 40th year. *(JFF Editor)*

BETTY ANHOLT HONORED BY CAPTIVA ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY: LONG TIME SWFAS AND FAS MEMBER

On January 13th the Captiva Historical Society celebrated the many contributions and published works of a remarkable island historian: Betty Anholt. Betty was awarded the First Guardian of History Award which will be named in her honor as The Betty Anholt Guardian of History Award. About 100 people attended the event to honor Betty that was held at the Captiva Island Yacht Club. She was presented with a beautiful glass award created by Luc Century for her.

Originally from Southern New Jersey and a Rutgers University graduate, Betty and her husband Jim have been long-time Sanibel Island residents. After many years as entrepreneurs, Betty took a position with the Sanibel Public Library which enabled her to meticulously research many island historical topics. Her first book in 1990 was "The Trolly Guide to Sanibel and Captiva Islands and was based on the trolly company that they both had operated. Betty has written five additional historical books about the islands and her latest, "Turtle Coast", is her first novel and is about early Gulf Coast Fishermen.

One of Bettys' books "Sanibel's Story- Voices and Images: From Calusa to Incorporation" includes her long -time interest in local archaeology. She has extensive knowledge of the Calusa from her experience cataloging artifacts from archaeological excavations on Useppa Island and at Pineland on Pine Island with Bill Marquardt. Betty is also a long-time member of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) and The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS). Congratulations Betty!!

BOB CARR: THE ABORIGINAL NAPLES CANAL APRIL 15, 2020

PLEASE NOTE: Due to concerns regarding the Covid 19 Virus Pandemic, we have cancelled this presentation and plan to reschedule it in the future.

SWFAS 2020 NEWSLETTER AND PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

2020 MAY, 8,9,10, Fri, Sat, Sun - The 72nd FAS ANNUAL MEETING - POSTPONED
The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples, FL Naples and Marco Island. SWFAS is the Host Chapter. Postponed due to the Covid 19 Virus. This has been rescheduled to October 2-4, 2020. Please go to https://fasweb.org/annual-conference/ for more information.

2020 MAY – NEWSLETTER

2020 JUNE – SEPTEMBER NO MEETINGS

2020 OCTOBER 2-4, Fri, Sat, Sun - The Florida Anthropological Society 72nd ANNUAL MEETING
The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, FL has been rescheduled from May.

2020 OCTOBER – NEWSLETTER

2020 NOVEMBER 18, Wednesday
Collier County Museum at Government Center, Naples, FL
Topic To Be Announced

2020 DECEMBER 12 SWFAS FIELD TRIP TO KORESHAN STATE PARK
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED; Learn what the local Koreshan cult believed and how they lived. Visit their village and afterward lunch at Rusty' Raw Bar. Contact John Furey at jffurey@charter.net or 508-330-5566 for reservations.

ARTICLES

EATING SHELLFISH IS NOT A NEW LIFESTYLE - A new study from Italy suggests that the use of shellfish for food and tools goes as far back as the Neanderthals:

NEANDERTHALS COMBED BEACHES AND WENT DIVING FOR SHELLS TO USE AS TOOLS, A STUDY SAYS

from CNN World at https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/15/world/neanderthal-shell-tools-scn/index.html
by Ashley Strickland, CNN

January 15, 2020

Neanderthals were more resourceful and adventurous than they're often credited with, according to a new study. An analysis of clam shells and volcanic rocks from an Italian cave shows that Neanderthals collected shells and pumice from beaches. And due to specific indicators on some of the shells, the researchers also believe Neanderthals waded and dove into the ocean to retrieve shells, meaning they may have been able to swim.

The Grotta dei Moscerini cave is only about ten feet above the beach in central Italy's Latium region. In 1949, the cave was excavated. The archaeologists recovered 171 clam shells that were modified into sharp tools. They all belonged to a local species called Callista chione, or the smooth clam. There was evidence that the shells were shaped by stones to make them thin, sharp and resilient. The shells were dated to between 90,000 to 100,000 years ago. This is before the arrival of modern humans in the Western Europe region.

It's fortunate that the shells, as well as the volcanic rock called pumice, were retrieved from the cave and stored at the Italian Institute of Human Paleontology because the cave itself is no longer accessible. Blasting for coastal highway construction buried the cave in the early 1970s. The findings from the cave also included a number of pumice stones that the Neanderthals likely used as an abrading tool to sharpen other tools.

Shell tools for Neanderthals are rare, and only a few examples of them have been discovered. The majority of tools associated with Neanderthals involve stone spear tips and stone hammers. But there was even less evidence prior to this study that Neanderthals living in Western Europe dove underwater. The study published Wednesday in the journal *PLOS*. "The fact they were exploiting marine resources was something that was known," said Paola Villa, study author and curator of the University of Colorado at Boulder's Museum of Natural History. "But until recently, no one really paid much attention to it."

A new analysis of the shells revealed that 24% of them had smooth, shiny exteriors. They were also larger than the other shells. Both are indicators of fresh shells found on the seafloor, still attached to live clams. "It's quite possible that the Neanderthals were collecting shells as far down as 2 to 4 meters," Villa said, which is the equivalent of about six to 13 feet. "Of course, they did not have scuba equipment."

The rest of the shells showed evidence of time spent sitting on the beach and experiencing sand weathering. The shells were modified to be used as scrapers. These were more efficient than thin flinty rocks, which can't sustain a sharp edge. It's possible that stone was hard to come by, which is why they sought out shells. Or perhaps the shells suited their needs better, the researchers said. "No matter how many times you retouch a clam shell, its cutting edge will remain very thin and sharp," Villa said.

The researchers believe that the pumice stones washed ashore after volcanic eruptions occurred 40 miles south of Moscerini beach. This aligns with evidence from a recent study suggesting that some Neanderthals suffered from "surfer's ear," based on bony growths found on the ears belonging to a few Neanderthal skeletons. And previous research has pointed to the fact that neanderthals engaged in fishing. Other associations between shells and ancient human relatives include shells found alongside Homo erectus fossils in Java, Indonesia, according to the study. "People are beginning to understand that Neanderthals didn't just hunt large mammals," Villa said. "They also did things like freshwater fishing and even skin diving."

HOW MIGRATIONS AND OTHER POPULATION DYNAMICS COULD HAVE SHAPED EARLY HUMAN CULTURE

from Stanford News Service at https://news.stanford.edu/press-releases/2017/05/02/early-culture-shaped-by-migration/

by Nathan Collins

May 2, 2017

Something odd happened in the transition from the Middle to the Upper Paleolithic, around 50,000 years ago. Modern humans and their immediate ancestors had been using tools for a few million years prior, but the repertoire was limited. Then, all of sudden, there was an explosion of new tools, art and other cultural artifacts. What caused that change has been the subject of much debate. Maybe brainpower reached a critical threshold. Maybe climate change forced our prehistoric kin to innovate or die. Or maybe it was the result of populations growing and spreading throughout the land, Stanford researchers write in Royal Society Interface. That certainly could explain some other curious features of Paleolithic culture -- and it could mean that a number of paleontologists' inferences about our genetic and environmental past are, if not wrong, not as well supported as they had thought.

Cultural bursts

"One captivating observation is if you look at the archaeological record, it seems to be highly punctuated" leading up to the Upper Paleolithic, said Oren Kolodny, a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Marcus Feldman, a professor of biology. In other words, Kolodny said, the Paleolithic was a time marked by periods of slow change separated by bursts of cultural innovation. "Those cultural bursts have been taken as evidence of an external change," such as genetic or environmental shifts, said Nicole Creanza, who led the study with Kolodny while a postdoctoral fellow in Feldman's lab. "But to some extent, Oren, Marc and I felt that the simplest explanation could be that culture itself is capable of behaving in a punctuated fashion," said Creanza, who is now an assistant professor of biological sciences at Vanderbilt University.

A search for something simpler

The researchers wondered, how could culture create these bursts of innovation? In a 2015 paper, Kolodny, Creanza and Feldman, who is also co-director of Stanford's Center for Computational, Evolutionary and Human Genomics, argued that human culture could have evolved through several distinct kinds of advance. First, some ideas emerge as "lucky leaps," Kolodny said -- perhaps an early human witnessed a mouse get trapped in a tangle of grass, and the hunting net was born. Other ideas could emerge either as extensions of those leaps or as combinations of other ideas or technologies. Finally, groups can also lose ideas, as prehistoric Tasmanians did when they lost, incredibly, the knowledge of how to fish, Kolodny said.

Aided by computer simulations, the team showed that combining the three kinds of advance could have led directly to bursts of innovation, as seen in the archaeological record. They also found that at the point where new ideas balance out with lost ones, the number of ideas a population can support increases dramatically with population size. A population twice the size, Kolodny, Creanza and Feldman's model predicted, could support much more than twice the number of ideas.

Migration and other game changers

In their latest paper, Creanza, Kolodny and Feldman, who is also the Burnet C. and Mildred Finley Wohlford Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, combined those conclusions with two new components. First, they considered migrations between otherwise distinct populations and assumed that such travel is more likely in larger populations. Second, they studied what would happen if certain major innovations, such as domesticating plants or developing hunting knives, helped grow the population. The updated model made a number of predictions that at least qualitatively resemble what archaeologists know about cultural evolution in the Paleolithic.

First, when population sizes are small and migration is relatively rare, a pattern of cultural booms and busts is likely. Essentially, the occasional travel may bring a new idea, setting off a boom. Then, without a steady stream of new ideas or population growth -- that is, a steady stream of new brains to contain all those new ideas -- some ideas will be lost to time. Innovations that encouraged population growth, however, can have lasting effects, since even slight increases in population size can support a disproportionate increase in innovation.

Migration can do something similar. As travel increases, it bridges societies, allowing for an exchange of ideas that creates a complex of interrelated cultures. And as travel becomes common, smaller groups effectively merge into one large population, with vastly more capacity for innovation. In fact, that can create a feedback loop: populations grow, contact with others increases, innovation results and populations grow even more.

Were Neanderthals less fit, or just fewer in number?
Those theoretical conclusions could help explain a number of puzzles in human history, such as the disappearance of Neanderthals long ago. "People tend to assume modern humans were better and replaced them," Kolodny said, but how they were better remains unclear. A simpler explanation may lie in two observations: Neanderthals had roughly a third the population of other early humans, and migration was always out of Africa, not into it.

In that case, modern humans migrating from Africa might have brought with them a more advanced repertoire of technologies, due in part to their larger population, and Neanderthals just could not keep up. "We don't think that whenever we get a qualitative pattern that looks like the archaeological record, this is what necessarily happened," Kolodny said. "But it is a proof of concept that it could have happened this way." Just as important, Creanza says, the results show that researchers cannot use cultural bursts as evidence of external changes -- that is, just because our culture advanced 50,000 years ago, that does not imply our brains got bigger, the landscape changed or anything else. It might just be the way culture is.

NEW MAP OF BERINGIA OPENS YOUR IMAGINATION TO WHAT LANDSCAPE LOOKED LIKE 18,000 YEARS AGO
From CBC News at https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/new-beringia-map-1.4999523
By Karen McColl
February 1, 2019

Thousands of years ago, a stretch of land connected the continents of Asia and North America, in the place the Bering Strait now occupies. The Bering land bridge was exposed at various times over an almost three million year period, when wide scale glaciation lowered sea levels by as much as 150 metres. The land bridge was part of "Beringia," which refers to the stretch of land between present day Siberia and Yukon Territory. It's been home to woolly mammoths, steppe bison and humans. Now, researchers have a better idea of what this region looked like and how our ancient relatives used the landscape.

Jeff Bond, a geologist with Yukon Geological Survey in Whitehorse, has produced a map showing what Beringia looked like 18,000 years ago. At that time, much of the earth was glaciated, but Beringia remained predominantly ice-free due to its arid climate. Bond compiled the map using sea floor data from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. "The bathymetry data is the most current compilation available," he said. "So yeah, it's really — I think — the most detailed reconstruction of the land bridge that's been put together to date." Bond said the data are accurate down to about one square kilometre in most places. "It's not super detailed, but we're talking about a big landscape. It's over 1,500 kilometres across." He said some areas have a 100 square metre resolution.

Human migration moved east across bridge
This is the first time the lakes and rivers of Beringia have been mapped. Bond said knowing more about the topography, including where the major drainages and highlands were, could tell us more about how humans used the landscape.

"I think these waterways would be very significant in terms of campsites, places which would have maybe impeded peoples' migration or dispersion across the land bridge." Bond created the map to be used in an exhibit at the Beringia Centre, a museum in Whitehorse.

Information on the centre's website says the earliest evidence of people in the Arctic region dates to about 35,000 years ago in northern Siberia. It says people moved eastward and eventually across the land bridge. The first evidence of people in the Yukon dates back 15,000 years, although recent research says it might have been much earlier than that. "It's the story between 35,000 year ago and 15,000 years ago that is very intriguing," said Julie Brigham-Grette, a geologist at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst who helped Bond with the map. "Where did they go, how did they live, why did they migrate? "Maps like this really open your imagination to what these landscapes must have been like," she said.

Brigham-Grette, who has been studying the land bridge for decades, helped Bond make sure the map is accurate, particularly with regards to the distribution of glaciers. Bond said the map shows the most current understanding of ice distribution along the border of Beringia. Brigham-Grette said the lack of ice means people could have travelled along the coast. "There are ideas that early humans were using boats ... and maybe they were migrating along that coastline," she explained. "Some questions we may never have an answer for but [the map] ... is just wonderful eye candy."

Although Beringia is now covered by water, Bond says it might be possible for underwater archeologists to find out more about the people who lived there. "Perhaps this map will give some marine archeologists some ideas about where to investigate the landscape for archeological sites," he said. The map is available online or through Yukon Geological Survey in Whitehorse.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2020

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 . 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