

Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) OUR 44th YEAR January 2024 Newsletter

https://swflarchaeology.org/

PRESIDENT'S CORNER By John F. Furey M.A., RPA, jffurey@charter.net



A happy and prosperous New Year to one and all from SWFAS. Our aim each year is to provide you with interesting and thought-provoking presentations and the latest archaeological information available via our SWFAS Newsletters. We hope that we meet your expectations. This month we present two articles on the 'Kelp Highway' as the earliest water route into North America during the glaciation and as evidence for a much earlier date of this migration. The data from the west coast of Canada are from islands and is both archaeological and geological. Another highly interesting article on the early domestication of the horse in Turkey is included. In February we restart the nine-part series on France in the New World.

Each January, SWFAS must present a listing of our Board and Officers for the coming year, and our new listing for 2024 is below.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We encourage anyone interested in promoting education and preservation of our archaeological and historical heritage in Southwest Florida to join our Board of Directors. The board typically meets twice a year during the Fall and Winter seasons and much is done by e-mails. You do not have to be a year-round resident, or an archaeologist, and we encourage students to join. It is a great opportunity to learn about the archaeology of our area and to help guide the society with new ideas and perspectives. If you are interested, please contact me at jffurey@charter.net or 508-330-5566. I look forward to hearing from you.

THE PEOPLING OF THE AMERICAS BY BOAT ON THE 'KELP HIGHWAY'

Quadra Island offers up archaeological evidence of another western Canadian island on the 'Kelp Highway' for early entry into North America by boat people at about 14,000 to 15,000 years ago. This suggests that that the actual date is much earlier and could be even 50,000 years ago or more for Clovis.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE FROM TRIQUET ISLAND BRITISH COLUMBIA ON THE 'KELP HIGHWAY' AND AN EARLY NORTH AMERICAN ARRIVAL BY BOAT OF THE HEILTSUK NATION AT LEAST 14,000 YEARS AGO

Archaeologists in Canada confirmed the oral history of the Heiltsuk Nation with excavations on Triquet Island north of Vancouver Island. Their oral tradition claimed that the group lived on the island during the last glaciation to survive, and it was contrary to current belief that this area was frozen and uninhabitable. Carbon 14 tests dated artifacts to 14,000 years ago. The population subsisted on fish and hunted sea mammals in boats. See below.

EARLIEST DOMESTICATION OF HORSES

Like many of us, I grew up as a kid watching western movies, playing cowboys and Indians, and both cowboys and Indians had horses to ride. I always wanted one, or even a pony. Recent archaeological work in southeast Turkey and Iran offers us a glimpse into the earliest domestication of the horse and evidence that they were milked, carried burdens, and ridden. Sheep, goats and cattle had already been domesticated and this early experience with animal domestication automatically led to the horse. Our domestication of the horse 5,500 years ago was a significant step in farming, travel and warfare. The horse was our only source of land travel

until the development of the automobile and railroad train in the early 1900's and, even as late as World War II, the horse was widely used by the German Army and other European armies only 80 years ago. General Irwin Rommel and US General Patton were both cavalry officers, and Polish mounted cavalry attacked German tanks on horseback in WW II. A 2023 article by Trautmann and Heyd in Science Advances documents this earliest domestication of horses. See below.

DUES FOR 2024: SEE NEW PAGE ON SWFAS ON-LINE

It's easy to pay your2024 SWFAS dues on line with a credit card at our website or mail a check to our Treasurer Charlie Strader. Go to https://swflarchaeology.org/, and click on "Join SWFAS" to use your credit card. Your dues and donations are our only source of income and SWFAS is a Florida tax exempt non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Please support archaeology, history, education, and preservation in Southwest Florida with your dues and donations.

SWFAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS FOR 2024

The 2024 Officers and Board of Directors will be elected at the January 17, 2024 SWFAS meeting. The following is the proposed slate of officers. Please note that we are looking for additional members to join us on the board!

Officers

President: John Furey **Treasurer:** Charlie Strader **Secretary:** Susan Harrington

Editor: John Furey

Craighead Lab Director:

Susan Harrington

Directors

First of 3-year term:

Theresa Schober (Chapter Rep.)

SWFAS members and guests met at the Museum of the Everglades on December 9. They were treated to a brief presentation by Museum Director

Mary Southall

Second of 3-year term:

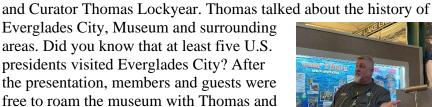
Open

Third of 3-year term:

Open

DECEMBER 9, 2024 - FIELD TRIP - EVERGLADES MUSEUM





other docents available to answer any questions about the artifacts reflecting the history and prehistory of the Everglades City area.





Afterwards, members and guests had lunch at the Rod & Gun Club, which provided not only delicious, fresh fish, but also beautiful views and conversations about the Calusa and more modern histories. Everyone agreed that the day was informative and enjoyable.

JANUARY PRESENTATION: JANUARY 17, 2024, 7:00 PM FORT MYERS, IMAG HISTORY & SCIENCE CENTER

ARCHAIC SITES IN FLORIDA AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH SHELL TOOLS



Michelle Calhoun, WMS/LSSAS Archaeological Society, will speak about shell tools in Florida. Lightning whelk (*Sinistrofulgur perversum*, once known as *Busycon perversum*) has been integral to the lives of Native Peoples throughout eastern North America since at least the Archaic. Lightning whelk is found in archaeological contexts in every eastern U.S. state and even parts of Canada, though it was most often obtained from the Gulf of Mexico. Important though it was, additional "exotic" resources traveled alongside the whelk- mica, copper, greenstone, and others, often deposited in the same places and all described as symbolic of the Milky Way. This

presentation will highlight the role that lightning whelk has played over the millennia and will provide hypothetical routes of travel for whelk and its travelling companions.

Michelle Calhoun graduated from New College of Florida in 2021 with a BA in Anthropology and currently works for Archaeological Consultants Inc. (ACI). She is a long-term volunteer for Sarasota County Historical Resources, working on various archaeological collections. She is currently involved with many projects, including indexing dozens of archaeological

journals to create an archaeo-bibliography and GIS database for the eastern U.S. and southern Canada, illustrating artifacts for various publications, and helping to document the assemblage from 2 local archaeological sites.

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.

FEBRUARY PRESENTATION: FEBRUARY 21, 2024, 7:00 PM FORT MYERS, IMAG HISTORY & SCIENCE CENTER

SELMA DANIELS: A PIONEER OF BLACK EDUCATION IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



Dr. Brandon Jett, Professor of History, Florida SouthWestern State College, provides a presentation about Selma Daniels. For LaBelle's Black community there are few people who are as important as Ms. Selma Daniels, the founder of the only school for Black children in the city during the era of Jim Crow. She was a counselor, teacher, and guiding spirit for the community. When reflecting upon her legacy, the editors of the school's yearbook declared, "Mrs. Selma Daniels is to Daniels Elementary what the late Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune is the Bethune-Cookman College." Opened in the 1930s, Ms. Daniels worked tirelessly and taught all subjects and all grades from first to sixth. After a couple of years, the superintendent recommended that the school be officially named "Daniels Elementary." Although Ms. Daniels passed away several decades ago and the school is no

longer in operation, her impact on the Fordson/Sunset Park community was undeniable. As Dorothy Johnson explained, "She was the root that made us all sprout."

This talk will highlight the extraordinary accomplishments of Selma Daniels in providing quality education to the Black community of LaBelle by placing her story in context with the lynching of Henry Patterson just a few years prior to the opening of the Daniels School. Juxtaposing these two stories highlights the struggles faced by Black communities in southwest Florida, but also emphasizes how, despite segregation, disenfranchisement, and violence imposed by Jim Crow laws and customs, Black individuals and communities proved capable of accomplishing incredible things. This talk will also look at local efforts to preserve the legacy and memory of Selma Daniels.

Dr. Jett is a Professor of History at Florida Southwest State College in Ft. Myers and a graduate of the University of Florida at Gainesville. He studies the history of crime, violence, and criminal justice in the Jim Crow South.

SWFAS 2024 SPEAKERS SCHEDULE

JANUARY 17, 2024, 7:00 PM, FT. MYERS, IMAG MUSEUM

Michelle Calhoun, WMS/LSSAS Archaeological Society Archaic Sites in Florida and Their Association with Shell Tools

FEBRUARY 21, 2024, 7:00 PM, FT. MYERS, IMAG MUSEUM

Dr. Brandon T. Jett, FSU

Lee County Black History: Selma Daniels: A Pioneer in Black Education in Southwest Florida

MARCH 20, 2024, 7:00 PM, FT. MYERS, IMAG MUSEUM

Natalie De La Torre Salas, Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) Archaeologist There is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Hurricanes and Heritage in Southwest Florida. Hurricane Damage to Archaeological Sites

APRIL 17, 2024, 7:00 PM, NAPLES, COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM AT GOVERNMENT CENTER Theresa Schober, Archaeologist

International Repatriation of Cultural Belongings

MAY FAS Annual Meeting

JUNE-AUGUST No Newsletters/Presentations/Summer Sabbatical

NOVEMBER 20, 2024, 7:00 PM, NAPLES, COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM AT GOVERNMENT CENTER

Sarah Ayres Rigby, FPAN Archaeologist Topic TBA

DECEMBER TBA Field Trip

ARTICLES

FOUND: ONE OF THE OLDEST NORTH AMERICAN SETTLEMENTS

By Brigit Katz April 5, 2017

From Smithsonian Magazine at https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/one-oldest-north-american-settlements-found-180962750/



Joanne McSporran

The oral history of the Heiltsuk Nation, an Aboriginal group based on the Central Coast of British Columbia, tells of a coastal strip of land that did not freeze during the ice age, making it a place of refuge for early inhabitants of the territory. As Roshini Nair reports for the CBC, a recent archaeological discovery attests to an ancient human presence in the area associated with the tradition. While digging on British Columbia's Triquet Island, archaeologists unearthed a settlement that dates to the period of the last ice age.

The archaeological team, supported by the Hakai Institute, sifted through meters of soil and peat before hitting upon the charred remains of an ancient hearth. Researchers painstakingly peeled away charcoal flakes,

which were then carbon dated. In November, tests revealed that the hearth was some 14,000 years old, indicating that the area in which it was found is one of the oldest human settlements ever discovered in North America. Or as Randy Shore of the *Vancouver Sun* contextualizes, the village is "three times as old as the Great Pyramid at Giza."

Alisha Gauvreau, a PhD student at the University of Victoria and a researcher with the Hakai Institute, presented the team's findings at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archeology this week. She tells Shore that archaeologists also found a number of artifacts in the area: fish hooks, a hand drill for igniting fires, a wooden device for launching projectiles and a cache of stone tools near the hearth. "It appears we had people sitting in one area making stone tools beside evidence of a fire pit," Gauvreau says. "The material that we have recovered ... has really helped us weave a narrative for the occupation of this site."

These findings may have significant implications for our understanding of ancient human migration patterns. As Jason Daley reports for Smithsonian.com, the traditional story of human arrival to the Americas posits that some 13,000 years ago, stone-age people moved across a land bridge that connected modern-day Siberia to Alaska. But recent studies suggest that route did not contain enough resources for the earliest migrants to successfully make the crossing. Instead, some researchers say, humans entered North America along the coast. In a radio interview with the CBC, Gauvreau says that the ancient settlement on Triquet Island "really adds additional evidence" to this theory. "[A]rchaeologists had long thought that … the coast would been completely uninhabitable and impassible when that is very clearly not the case," she explains.

The discovery is also important to the Heiltsuk Nation, lending credence to oral traditions that place their ancestors in the region during the days of the ice age. "[I]t reaffirms a lot of the history that our people have been talking about for thousands of years," William Housty, a member of Heiltsuk Nation, tells Nair. He added that the validation by "Western science and archeology" can help the Heiltsuk people as they negotiate with the Canadian government over title rights to their traditional territory.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND AFFIRMS HEILTSUK NATION'S ORAL HISTORY

By Roshini Nair March 30, 2017

From CBC at https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/archeological-find-affirms-heiltsuk-nation-s-oral-history-

1.4046088#:~:text=An%20ancient%20archeological%20find%20on%20Triquet%20Island%20on,in%20that%20arca%20where%20the%20excavation%20took%20place.



Google Maps

An ancient archeological find on Triquet Island on B.C.'s Central Coast is adding credence to the oral histories of the Heiltsuk Nation. "Heiltsuk oral history talks of a strip of land in that area where the excavation took place. It was a place that never froze during the ice age and it was a place where our ancestors flocked to for survival," said William Housty, a member of Heiltsuk Nation. B.C. archaeologists have excavated a settlement in the area — in traditional Heiltsuk Nation territory — and dated it to 14,000 years ago, during the last ice age where glaciers covered much of North America. "This find is very important because it reaffirms a lot of the history that our people have been talking about for thousands of years," Housty said.

Careful excavation

Archeologist Alisha Gauvreau, a PhD student from the University of Victoria and a scholar with the Hakai Institute, helped uncover the find. Gauvreau and her team supported by the Hakai Institute and the Heiltsuk Nation found a number of artifacts — including carved wooden tools — at the site. By excavating through meters of soil and peat, the team identified a paleosol — a thin horizontal layer of soil — that contained a hearth-like feature. Very carefully, they were able to isolate a few tiny charcoal flakes from the hearth with tweezers and send it in for carbon dating. In November last year, tests revealed the fragments were over 14,000 years old — thousands of years older than the Roman Empire and the Egyptian pyramids.

Broad implications

Gauvreau says the site — which is one of the oldest sites of human occupation on the Northwest coast of North America — gives a new meaning to the First Nations concept of "time immemorial." "When First Nations talk about time immemorial, it just goes to show how far back the occupation of this land goes back in deep time," she said.

The finding also has broader implications for human history — namely early North Americans travelled the coast. One theory of how humans entered the Americas is they came from Asia over an Alaskan land bridge through an ice-free corridor east of the Rockies and made their way through what is now eastern and central Canada, she explained. "The alternative theory, which is supported by our data as well as evidence that has come from stone tools and other carbon dating, is people were capable of travelling by boat. From our site, it is apparent that they were rather adept sea mammal hunters," she said.

Evidence for negotiations

Housty, who sits on the board of directors for the Heiltsuk Resource Management Department, says the scientific validation will help in future negotiations over land title and rights. "When we do go into negotiations, our oral history is what we go to the table with," Housty said. "So now we don't just have oral history, we have this archeological information. It's not just an arbitrary thing that anyone's making up ... We have a history supported from Western science and archeology."

Gauvreau will be presenting her team's findings at the Society for American Archeology conference in Vancouver this week.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS IDENTIFY THE EARLIEST HORSE RIDERS

By Ruth Schuster March 4, 2023

From Haaretz at https://www.haaretz.com/archaeology/2023-03-04/ty-article/archaeologists-identify-the-earliest-horse-riders/00000186-a265-d6e6-a3af-fb7563fb0000



Credit: Michał Podsiadło

Horses were a latecomer to the human household. Animal domestication began about 10,000 years ago (or a bit more) in southeast Turkey and Iran, starting with the sheep, goat and cow, according to the archaeological evidence. Their purpose was to be eaten. Dairying would only arise later, following which lactose intolerance would be discovered.

The story of the horse was different. Like all other animals, from the elephant to the shrew, horses had been consumed since humans could catch them – and horse images grace many a cave wall. But its capture and domestication is believed to have only been about 5,500 years ago,

by a central Asian nomadic people called the Botai. This time, the purpose was not only for eating its flesh but its milk too. But did the Botai ride the horse? Did they invent travel not by shank's mare but by mare's shanks? Were the Botai behind this turning point in human culture, facilitating the course of everything from trade to war? Maybe. For over 30 years, archaeologists have been arguing over possible evidence: wear on horse teeth in prehistoric Kazakhstan in a Botai context, indicating that bits were used. We are more secure that they milked the horses based on horse milk proteins detected in Botai pottery.

Now the earliest known bioanthropological evidence of horseback riding is reported not among the Botai but among the Yamnaya, a culture succeeding the Botai in the steppes. The study by Martin Trautmann of the University of Helsinki and colleagues appeared Friday in *Science Advances*. So even if the Botai domesticated the horse, the Yamnaya were perhaps the first to ride the beast, opening up the whole steppe and beyond to their attentions.

How to stay on a horse

The absence of gear related to horseback riding in a Botai or Yamnaya context does not dismay archaeologists, who point out that everything from saddle to reins would have been made of perishable material, not stone. In fact, the authors hadn't set out to find the world's first horseback rider. They were studying the bodies and this evidence popped out at them rather unexpectedly, they explain.

The enlightenment ensued from hallmark damage that horseback riding does to the body. To identify horsemanship syndrome in ancient remains, the researchers developed a list of six indicators. They then set out to seek these indicators in bodies buried in Yamnaya kurgans (tomb mounds) excavated in Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary, dating between 5,020 to 4,500 years ago. Altogether, they studied 24 skeletons – most Yamnaya – and some from other cultures in the vicinity.

Among the six indicators cited for habitual horsemanship are stress signals in the pelvis and thigh bones, because riding, especially without a saddle and stirrups, involves the rider tightening the thighs and straining the lower body with each step the animal takes, lest they fall off. Nine of the bodies evinced at least four of the six characteristics, marking them as likely horseback riders. Of these, five exhibited at least five of the six pathologies, while one person buried in Strejnicu, Romania, had all six.

There are caveats. There is no archaeological benchmark for "damage caused by riding a horse" as opposed to other theoretical strains. Basket weaving could result in some similar indicators, they point out. Absent benchmarking, then, interpretations may vary and comparison with other nomadic pre-and-post-horse peoples could help. That has not been done yet. However, the researchers feel that, taken together, the six indicators do

the job. One wonders if they couldn't also check horse corpses from the time. They explain that ancient human remains are more common than ancient horse remains and tend to be better preserved.

Indirect evidence of riding by the Yamnaya is the speed of their spread to Hungary in the west and Siberia in the northeast. "Considering the vast geographical distances of 4,500 kilometers (almost 2,800 miles) between the Tisza River [in Hungary] and the Altai Mountains [in Siberia], the absence of roads and the small overall population sizes, it is difficult to envision how this expansion could have taken place without improved means of transport," they write.

So in short, Yamnaya seem to have been the first horse riders, back in the Early Bronze Age. The authors add that 15 of their 24 bodies had three of the six telltale features. Not everybody who rides a horse will develop all six. Many of the riding Yamnaya died young, by our terms: one found in Romania died about age 17, several at 25 and only one was elderly, dying in Bulgaria at age 65-75 (or thereabouts).

Meanwhile in Mesopotamia

Once we sat astride the steed, developments came thick and fast. Horses began to appear in Mesopotamian reliefs in Ur from over 4,000 years ago. These may be the earliest depictions of riding. At least the assumption is that the Mesopotamians were sitting on horses, though the authors admit it could be an ass or even a kunga – a hybrid ass-onager (Equus hemionus) that the Mesopotamians bred. Why did they breed the ass with the onager? Because donkeys were slow and onagers were high-strung, but the outcome of their mating would serve well to go to war, archaeologists believe. Moving on from the mobile Mesopotamians to Old Babylonia something less than 4,000 years ago, we find the horse in cuneiform texts and images in the context of being ridden.

And thusly, cavalry emerged shortly before the end of the second millennium B.C.E., and remains in use until this very day.

SWFAS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

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President: John Furey

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Craighead Lab Director:

Susan Harrington

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Second of 3-year term:

Amanda Townsend Emily Garcia

Third of 3-year term:

Theresa Schober (Chapter Rep.)

Mary Southall

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:

27655 Kent Road

Bonita Springs, FL 34135

- 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 South	west Florida Archaeology Soc	ciety preserve	and interpret Florida's	heritage!
Name (please print)				
Address				<u> </u>
City/Town	Sta	te	ZIP	
Phone	Email			
Check One:				
Individual (\$20)	Sustaining Individual (\$5	50)	Family (\$35)	
Student (\$5)	Life (\$500)			
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Please make your check of	out to SWFAS and mail to:			
Charlie Strader				
SWFAS Treasurer				

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FAS Membership Categories

Anthropological Society Statement of Ethical Responsibilities, which can be found on our website fasweb.org. Membership is for one year. SELECT LEVEL BELOW. Student* ___Institutional \$50 \$20 \$40 ___Sustaining Regular \$100 Family \$45 *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. City:______State:_____ZIP:_____ FAS Chapter: Please choose how you wish to receive the quarterly journal, The Florida Anthropologist. Digital Only (via a password protected web link) Note: Student members only receive digital access. Both Digital and Printed This is a Gift Membership from: In addition to this Membership, I also 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.

Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals who are willing to abide by the Florida

Send Membership Form and Dues Payment to:

Signature

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.

Date