

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 7, Number 6

NEWSLETTER

July, 1983

President: Jeanie McGuire

Editor: Beth Read

Meeting Notice

8:00 p.m., Friday, July 15, 1983

The July regular meeting of the membership will be held at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 3280 South Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida, on Friday evening, July 15, at 8:00 p.m. Member Roy Potts will share his slides of his trip to Mexico. Good food and good conversation follow the show.

Meeting Notice

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 12, 1983

The July regular board meeting will be held at Sue Goldman's home, 7730 S.W. 52nd Ct., South Miami, at 7:00 p.m. Each board member is requested to bring a covered dish for a pot luck dinner.

President's Corner

Thanks to Emily and Maria for an excellent evening at the Arch Creek Museum. We enjoyed meeting many members of the Arch Creek Trust and were introduced to the hammock and the archaeological site through a beautiful slide show.

Many of you are giving a lot of good energy to our society; committees are actively making things happen. I feel this society is actually "coming alive."

I will be in England for the next few weeks attending an educational seminar at Oxford. During my free time I plan to visit several archaeological sites with my camera and, if all goes well, I will have a presentation for you when I return. I will see you on our field trip to Venice and Little Salt Spring in late July. If you have any questions or needs, please call Bob Carr, our first vice-president, at 579-2553.

Jeanie McGuire

Field Director's Report

We are continuing with our excavation of Da 141 at the Stirling Crushed Stone Site on Saturdays until further notice. Please plan to get to the site as often as possible; we need to speed up our excavation. Call Jeanie at 662-1950, Jo Southard at 274-3299, or me at 821-3735 if you plan to join us on a Saturday morning. Here is our work schedule for the coming year:

- June 25 - Sept. 3, 1983--Complete the test pits down to concretion on Da 141 (Coleman site).
- Sept. 10, 1983 --Bring in front-end loader to clear remainder of soil on Da 141.
- Sept. 17 and 24, 1983--Sweep concretion on Da 141 and map the area.
- October 1, 1983--Bring in front-end loader to peel the concretion layer on Da 141.
- Oct. 8 - Feb. 1, 1984--Work below the concretion level on Da 141.
- March 3, 1984--Open test pits on Da 1058 (Chetum Hammock).
- April 14, 1984--Bring in front-end loader to clear top soil on Da 1058.
- April 14 - July 31, 1984--Complete work on Da 141 and Da 1058.

With this schedule we will have to "keep moving" to meet the completion date established with the owners. We need all of you.

Jim McLellan

The June Board Meeting

Wilma Sakal reports that the following were officially elected: Tom Lux as Treasurer, Jim McLellan to a 3-year Trustee position, Jo Southard to a 1-year Trustee position, Beth Read, an ex-officio member. Joan Haas has agreed to plan and coordinate a series of field trips on week-ends for members and friends. Future carbon dating at the University of Miami will only be done on a fee basis. When reports are published on the sites, we will be reimbursed for this cost. It, therefore, becomes doubly important that we publish reports on our digs. Raising dues to meet increased costs was discussed. Bob Carr thanked everyone for helping out at Marti Park.

New Member

Watch for and greet new member, Joel Eachorn at the next meeting or at the next dig.

In Memorium: Anne Laxson

Dan Laxson's beloved wife and partner for a lifetime, died in early May after a long illness. We extend our support in his loss and invite Dan to return to his archaeological interests. Our members who have read his archaeological reports on Dade County sites will welcome his active participation in the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida.

From V-P Bob Carr:

Early site discovered in Miami: Construction work along the Miami River by the City of Miami has uncovered a previously unknown prehistoric site. During the ongoing development of Jose Marti Park, workmen exposed a thin stratum of Indian occupation beneath several feet of fill. Monitoring of the construction activities by the Dade County Historic Preservation Division has thus far uncovered a human skull burial, extensive faunal remains and a single Busycon point. The absence of pottery makes the site particularly noteworthy, and it is suspected that the period of occupation is at least 2,000 years old. Specific dates of the site are awaiting the results of radiocarbon tests. The City will provide an opportunity for more extensive salvage excavations of the site during weekends this month. Chapter members are invited to participate.

F.A.S. to Select New Editor: The F.A.S. Board met on June 4 to consider the selection of a new editor for The Florida Anthropologist. Three candidates have applied for the position. Louis Tesar and John Scarry are from the Division of Archives and History in Tallahassee, and Ray Williams is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida in Tampa. The F.A.S. Board decided to make a final decision and will take a written vote of the Board and present those votes to President John Beriault by August 1. The present Editor, Bob Carr, will leave that position effective in September of this year. He has held that position since 1979 and had resigned to allow for more time with his new wife, Debbi, and to begin work on a book about the archaeology of Dade County.

A Reminder

Your dues are due, or perhaps over due, if your name is circled in red on the front cover. We need you and we need your money to do all of the exciting things planned for the coming year.

Workshops, Classes, Films, etc.

The Arch Creek films this month are: "The Ecology of the Everglades" and "Living Waters of the Big Cypress" both shown on Thursday, July 14, at 8:00 p.m., \$1.00. If you would like to see the Arch Creek hammock by moonlight, now's your chance. Tuesday, July 26, 8:30 p.m. Free.

A.S.S.F. EXPLORES FLORIDA!

"SEE IT THEN" with joan g. haas

Join us, we're off to explore:

1. Little Salt Springs, Placido mounds, and Venice fossils, July 23, 24, Saturday and Sunday.
2. Crystal River Mississippian culture mound/Museum, Labor Day Weekend, September 3, 4, 5.
3. Jupiter/Tequesta; beachfront mound and blowing rocks; Stuart, Elliott Museum and House of Refuge, October 29, 30, Saturday and Sunday.
4. Fort Center mound (intriguing)--near Lake Okeechobee and Fisheating Creek, January 28, 29. Saturday and Sunday.
5. Estero Bay mound (canoe trip) and Koreshan Village--near Ft. Myers, Mid-March.

Little Salt Springs Trip

Little Salt Springs is a unique underwater site with a vast array of fossils and artifacts of Paleo and Archaic Indian origin dating back 12,000 years ago; a paleo-Indian boomerang may be the oldest specimen in the world and is the first found in the Western Hemisphere (more info at the July meeting). A visit and study of the mounds at Placido by Sue Goldman will be next. We will overnight in Venice; have it your way, camping, or mine, motelling, and be ready Sunday to gather by the handsful million year old fossils including shark's teeth. The full moon and a high tide will make a picker's delight for us diggers.

The car-pooling caravan will leave Miami at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 23. Let me know at 856-9744 if you will be (a) driving, (b) willing to share driving, (c) having space available, (d) needing a ride.

Make your own reservations for Saturday night. Possible places are: Oscar Shirer State Campground (lovely spot, I'm told) at 813-966-3154, \$7.00, tent spot, \$2.00 extra if you leave your candles at home. Comfort-minded can try the Holiday Inn, 813-966-2121, \$35.00 double, or the Candle-lite Motel, 813-493-3963, \$21.00 double. Morrison's Cafeteria and Attic at Kissin' Cuzzins are just a stone's throw away.

Joan Haas

From Judi Trimble

UP article datelined Sydney, Australia: "Australian scientists have discovered mineral grains that are 400 million years older than any rocks now known and believed to be part of the Earth's original crust.

Scientists at Australian National University said grains of the mineral zircon were discovered in western Australia and dated to within 300 million years of when the Earth itself is believed to have formed. Before the find there was absolutely no evidence that anything existed in the time gap between 4.5 and 3.8 billion years ago. Up to now, the oldest known rocks were metamorphic specimens found in Isua, Greenland and were 3.8 billion years old. The zircon grains may have formed part of the Earth's original upper crust. Atoms were extracted from the zircon by firing an ion microprobe beam at the crystal. Scientists determined their age by measuring uranium and lead content. The ion microprobe, unlike other methods used for dating material, does not destroy the original crystal."

From the Editor

Those of you who keep the copy coming are what make this an interesting newsletter; anyone out there who has anything you would like to share, please send it along. I will find a way to use it. My address and phone are: 784 Glenridge Rd., Key Biscayne; 361-2102.

Beth Read

Dates to Remember

- July 12: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Regular July Board Meeting, 7730 S.W. 52nd St., South Miami.
July 14: Thursday, 8:00 p.m., Films, Arch Creek Park, 1855 N.E. 135 St. North Miami.
July 15: Friday, 8:00 p.m., Regular July Meeting, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 3280 S. Miami Ave., Miami.
July 23-24: Saturday and Sunday, Field trip to Little Salt Springs and Venice.
September 3-5: Labor Day Weekend. Field trip to Crystal River.
October 29-30: Saturday and Sunday. Field trip to Jupiter/Tequesta.
Nov. 4-6: 50th Anniversary meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation.
Jan. 5-6/84: Annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeologists and the Conference on Underwater Archaeology, Williamsburg, Va.
Jan. 28-29/84: Saturday and Sunday. Field trip to Fort Center.
March/84: Field trip to Estero Bay.



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