

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 8 Number 10

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

1984

President: Jeanie McGuire

Editor: Beth Read

BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 8, 7:30 p.m.

The regular Board of Directors meeting will be held at Dr. Jackson's office, 190 S.E. 12 Terr., Miami. These meetings are open meetings and all voting members are welcome to attend and join the Board for coffee and dessert. Dr. Dennis Wiedman will be our host.

MEETING NOTICE

Thursday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.

The regular October membership meeting will be held at the new Historical Museum at 101 West Flagler Street, Miami in the classroom on the lower level. John Beriault from the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society will give us a current update on projects on that area and report on his recent Mayan trip.

PRESIDENT' CORNER

Thank you to those of you who have given extra time and energy during my absence during the past two months. My vacation in Northern Georgia was very beautiful and my business trip to Stanford, California was very hectic but educational.

We have become a very strong organization with many people involved who are doing a fantastic job. We could use a very active group of you who are not involved in excavating or administration responsibilities to help us get set up for the Harvest Schedule. Please call Seth at 861-8253.

Please write to Paula Hawkins, our State Senator, and ask her to vote in favor of the Texas Bill in order to save our Florida shipwrecks from the hands of "pot hunters". For more details, please call me at 662-1950 or 284-5935.

Jeanie

FIELD REPORT

We have opened two new pits on the Cheetum site. Historic as well as prehistoric material is being excavated. We are on schedule and will soon be putting in a backhoe trench to get beneath the concretion. We have not been able to work the "clay pit" due to the extreme amount of rain. If you have not been out to the site, please take the time to venture out and at least see what a fine job your society is doing to preserve and record the archaeological findings in Dade County.

Jeanie McGuire

EXCAVATION DATES:

Sunday, October 7, 12:30 p.m., Saturday, October 13, 9:00 a.m.,
Sunday, October 21, 12:30 p.m., Saturday, October 27, 9:00 a.m., Sunday,
November 4, 12:30 p.m., Saturday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. and Sunday,
November 18, 12:30 a.m.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

The meeting convened at Dr. Jackson's office at 7:55 p.m. Present were Jeanie McGuire, Joan Fonte, Wes Ries, Daryl Nagel, Dennis Wiedman, Jo Southard, Seth Lefkow and Beth Read. The treasurer reported receipts of \$39.00, payments of \$165.60, for a present balance of \$849.57. He projected a year end balance of \$600.00. Jo Southard reported three new members for a total of 73. Diane Thilmont was commended for her excellent job as hospitality chairman. The Board decided to join the Florida Trust as an organization to become more visible and lobby for funds for pre-historic preservation. We decided to take a double booth for the harvest which will be used for display but nothing will be sold. The Board voted to reimburse our representative at the FAS meeting \$50.00 for expenses for the meetings held in September and December, 1984 and April 1985. Problems with the Logo Contest were discussed and the Board decided to present the problems to the membership at the September general meeting and ask for a new vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:50.

Joan Fonte, Secretary

FAS REPORT

The FAS Meeting was held on September 15, 1984 in Winter Park. A number of items of interest to our members were discussed.

Back issues of FAS journal will be available at a 10% discount for FAS members. A full list will be in the next journal with contents. You might be interested in checking this list for information on current or anticipated research.

The annual meeting of the FAS will be held April 19-21 at the Holiday Inn on Daytona Beach. Further information will be coming. A notice will be released soon on procedures for submitting abstracts for papers to be presented at that meeting.

The FAS is taking a stand in support of the "Texas Bill". My understanding coming from the FAS meeting was the purpose of the Texas Bill is to remove the law of excavating ship wrecks from the Admiralty Courts and give it to the State to preserve the information of Historical Ship Wrecks. The State would make a 1A32 Permit necessary for all excavations of Historic Ship Wrecks.

Our President of the FAS, Claudine Payne, has prepared post cards but urges you to write letters also to Senator Paula Hawkins who has stopped the bill after it has been passed in the house. Please get letters in to her before October 7; let her know Historical documentation is important for the citizens of our state.

Judi Trimble

"TEXAS BILL"

Suggested general format for letters to your senators in support of the "Texas Bill."

Dear Senator Hawkins:

As a citizen of Florida interested in conserving the state's rich but fragile archaeological resources, I urge you to support federal legislation (HR 3194 and SB 1504) removing historic shipwreck sites from the jurisdiction of federal admiralty courts.

This legislation will place management of historic shipwrecks at the state level. An irreplaceable part of Florida's heritage that is now being salvaged for profit will thus stand a better chance of being documented before being lost forever.

I urge you to support SB 1504.

Sincerely,

LOGO CONTEST

It is apparent that your Board of Directors made some errors in the administration of the logo contest. The general membership vote was held in August instead of September as published. In addition, it was unclear whether only elected board members could vote at the initial elimination which narrowed the entries from 26 to five, and no steps were taken to ensure that only paid general members voted at the final vote at the August meeting. For all of the above, we apologize. Due to the error a second vote on the logo entries was held at the September meeting. After a full discussion of the problems with the administration of the contest, the general membership voted to leave the vote as it stood in August. Thus, Emily Perry Dietrich is our winner and her logo design appears on the front of this newsletter. We, as a Board, obviously approached the contest in too casual a manner, not anticipating the enthusiastic response. All future contests will be conducted under the aegis of a contest committee and printed contest rules, which will guide our actions and eliminate problems like those encountered this time around. We sincerely apologize for any and all errors and confusion. But do not despair, hold on to your designs because other plans are in the offing.

Your Board of Directors

TRAVEL UPDATE

The trip to the U.F. Museum and Laboratory has not yet been arranged by the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society. It is hoped that plans will be successful for an October weekend. If you are interested in joining this trip please call me so that if last minute plans are made I can notify you directly.

Saturday, November 10th. We will drive to Copeland (off State Road 29 about 80 miles west of Miami) to the Harman Bras Rock Company to see this collection of extinct animal fossils and shell fossils. The animal fossils are in the building but we will be climbing rock piles to find shell fossils. Sue Goldman will assist with identification of fossils.

We will then drive 30 miles farther to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary where we will take the 2 mile board walk to view the natural surroundings and South Florida Wildlife.

Logistics: We'll leave Miami at 8:30 a.m. and plans can be made to meet at a central area to car pool. Pack a picnic lunch. There is a \$4.00 admission to Corkscrew. We should be back to Miami by 5:30-6:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. by October,

Saturday, February 2, 1985. A day long trip is planned to these keys rich in prehistoric Indian archaeological materials and historical materials from the early 19th century habitation. Both are located about one mile off Lower Matecumbe Key (one north, one south) and boat transportation is needed. Charter boats are available but early no refund reservations make plans improbable. Hopefully interested members can obtain small craft or even canoes and meet at a prearranged time to go to the islands.

While we have time to make plans for this trip please call me with your preferences and proposals. We could make a weekend out of this also and all stay at the same location either a motel or maybe a campground. R.S.V.P. by January 1, 1985. EITHER TRIP: Please call Daryl Nagel, 821-3761 for details.

HELP US AT THE HARVEST FAIR

I need you. I want you. I'll even love you. If you'll help me man the booth at the Harvest Fair.

It's easy. And it's fun. And it's necessary. And we're going to have great exhibits. And Seth can't do it all alone.

Call Seth Lefkow at 861-8253 or 624-1347 to offer up some of your time on Saturday, November 17, or Sunday, November 18. While you're there, you can enjoy the rest of the Harvest Fair--always a fun day.

Seth

SEPTEMBER PAPERS

Due to low attendance at the September regular meeting, the papers scheduled for presentation at that meeting have been postponed. The papers will be rescheduled on a future date to be announced.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome new members, Joe Davis, Jr., John Carruthers, Gail Tucker and Sandra Riley into our group. We are very much looking forward to getting to know them and having them participate with us in our many activities. Welcome new members!

SOUTH FLORIDA HISTORY

A new course entitled "South Florida History" will be presented by Linda Williams at the Historical Museum on Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. The class includes numerous field trips around Dade County. Call the Museum for details at 375-1492. Also with the Historical Museum you can tour historic Coral Gables by trolley on Sunday, December 2nd or canoe to Indian Key with member Irving Eyster on Saturday, December 8th.

DIG AT THE WORLD FAMOUS LEISEY PIT WITH FRANK GARCIA

Leisey Pit, located south of Tampa, holds the remains of saber tooth tigers, bison, camels etc., but is in danger of loss to the bulldozer. The salvage dig needs people every day except Sunday. A fee and disclaimer may be required but here is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Call Charles Strader at 813-992-6133 for the details if you would like to participate.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Objective: To provide a formal means by which individuals and institutions interested in archaeological and anthropological studies in South Florida and related areas may come together for mutual benefits.

Code of Ethics:

1. Members of the society agree to promote archaeological site preservation and conservation, to excavate only endangered sites as part of a qualified research group, to not excavate archaeological sites for the unscientific collecting of artifacts.
2. All artifacts and material recovered from society projects are property of the society.

I hereby apply for membership in the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Renewal___ New Member___ \$12.00 Individual___ \$15.00 Family___

Mail check or money order to: The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida

Due: January 1, 1984

101 West Flagler Street
Miami, Florida 33130

GRIDDING OPPORTUNITY

Those of you who would like to learn how to layout a grid or hone your skills in this area have an opportunity to do so. John Beriault needs help with gridding and surface collecting on October 6, 7 and 13. If you are interested, please call 662-1950 (evenings).

DIGGING UP A CITY'S PAST: Reprinted from Origins/digest, date unknown

"Ten feet below a Manhattan parking lot, 55 archeologists troweled and whisk-broomed their way through two centuries of rubble to expose seventeenth-century artifacts underneath. Their goal? The Dutch West India Company's warehouse. Their deadline? One month.

This site, and dozens like it in the United States and abroad, is typical of an emerging field called urban archeology that has forged a delicate pact between scientists and developers. Using heavy equipment such as backhoes and augmenting exacting excavation techniques with high technology, these specialists rush to document promising sites before construction begins.

"Salvage work is the only viable option in a city," explains Thomas King, senior archeologist on the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. "Preservation of a site that is in place is relatively impossible"....

At the Dutch West India Company site, the archeologists had just one mid-winter month to retrieve what they could. With resources from Greenhouse Consultants, an archeological consulting firm overseeing the project, they devised new high-speed recording methods--integrating lasers, computers and remotesensing technology--and set up an onsite lab.

"In archeology, as much as fifty percent of the time can be spent manually recording what's at the site and how it's plotted out," notes principal investigator Joel Grossman. "But we've cut this down tremendously. In one day, we can determine where something is, its date, who made it and the context in which it was found. And from that, we can tell whether or not to probe further."

In the 1650s, the site was on Manhattan's shoreline; it held not only the warehouse--whose foundations were exposed before the dig ended in late January--but also New Amsterdam's first doctor's office and pharmacy. Digging turned up typically Dutch yellow bricks, a 1590 Dutch coin, clay pipes (one Indian, the rest imported), cisterns, trade beads, a comb, peach pits, animal bones and the seal of Archibald Kennedy, the first port tax collector"....

Andrea Dorfman

A COW IS MIRE--AND A LINE TO THE PAST OPENS Miami Herald, September 7, 1983, Frontiers, Section E

"There probably is no one around today who can say exactly what Nathan Norton was doing out in the wild, wet lands northeast of Lake Okeechobee one day 57 years ago. Or even who Norton was. A cowboy perhaps, because the vast, flat prairie dotted by hammocks of cabbage palms is good cow pasture in the dry season.

Norton's name clings to a slight niche in history because of what he found that day.

In a pond along the edge of Fisheating Creek was a long piece of wood, strangely shaped, sticking out of the mud. Alongside it was the carcass of a cow that had lost the struggle, apparently despite furious kicking, to free itself from the soft bottom. Norton retrieved the timber. The shape turned out to be a carved bird, later determined to be an eagle. It is a sad, brooding creature, with head bowed and wings folded but slightly extended from the breast. What did the bird symbolize to the person who, it was later determined, carved it from a pine log with an instrument made of shark's teeth?

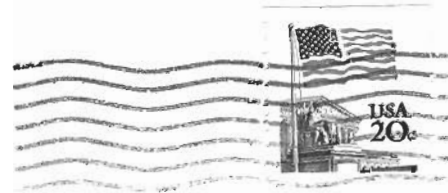
Juanita Greene

The above description describes the discovery of the Fort Center site.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 6-7: Grid and surface collect with John Beriault.
October 8, Monday: Regular Board Meeting, Dr. Jackson's office, 190 S.E. 12 Terr.,
Miami, 7:30 p.m.
October 13, Saturday: Grid and surface collect with John Beriault.
October 16-19: Southeastern Museum Conference, Museum of Science and
Industry, Tampa, Florida.
October 18, Thursday: Regular Meeting, Historical Museum, 101 W. Flagler Street,
Miami, 7:00 p.m.
October 19-21: Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, Annual Meeting,
SUNNY-Binghamton, NY.
October Trip to Florida State Museum. Date to be announced.
November 2-4: Eastern States Archaeological Federation, 51st. Annual Mtg,
Holiday Inn, Annapolis, MD.
November 8-10: Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Annual Meeting,
Pensacola Hilton Hotel, Pensacola, FL.
November 10, Saturday: Trip to Copeland site and Corkscrew Swamp
November 15-18: American Anthropological Association 83rd. Annual Meeting,
Denver Hilton and Holiday Inn Denver Downtown.
December 2, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.: Trolley Tour of Coral Gables with Historical
Museum.
December 8, Saturday 10:00 a.m.: Canoe trip to Indian Key with Historical
Museum
January 2, Saturday: Trip to Lignumvitae Key and Indian Key.

CAVATION DATES: Sunday, October 7, 12:30 p.m., Saturday, October 13, 9:00 a.m.,
Monday, October 21, 12:30 p.m., Saturday, October 27, 9:00 a.m., Sunday, November
12:30 p.m., Saturday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. and Sunday, November 18, 12:30 p.m.



Emily Perry
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