



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

---

Volume 11 Number 10      Newsletter October      1986

---

President:      Sue Goldman      Editor:      Debra Goldman

---

BOARD MEETING

6:00 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17

The October Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Sue Goldman's house, 7730 SW 52nd Court, South Miami. Board members please bring a snack. Please be prompt.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

8:00 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17

Linda Pierson, Curator of Natural History at the Museum of Science, will be speaking about the Anasazi Indians, the cliff-dwellers of the American Southwest. Linda worked on an early Anasazi site in Montezuma Canyon while in school in Utah.

The meeting will be held at the Audubon House, 5530 Sunset Drive, South Miami on Friday, October 17 at 8:00 p.m.

LIONS & TIGERS & BEARS

Lee Tiger, Director of Marketing and PR for the Miccosukee Tribe, spoke with members of the society, Friday, September 19. Mr. Tiger gave a well-researched history of his people's move down Florida from their original home in the Georgia-Carolinas region, adding stories from tribal tradition to give a full view of their migration. He described the tribal efforts at independence from governmental economic support. He ended by playing music from the "Tiger-Tiger" group and Buffalo Tiger's folk lyrics.

Thanks to Judi Trimble, we even had homemade pumpkin bread made from a Miccosukee recipe.

Sue Goldman

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs: Please contact Ruth Gaustad if you have a speaker scheduled for upcoming society meetings, at 252-0069, work, or 279-2735, home.

Exhibits: There will be a Harvest Exhibit Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Ruth Gaustad's house, 8120 SW 103rd Avenue, 279-2735. All interested members are encouraged to attend.

Publicity: A new committee has been formed to increase public awareness of our society. Norma Dieppa is the chairperson and would like ideas and volunteers. Call Norma at 687-0935.

CHOKOLOSKEE ISLAND EXCAVATION

The Southwest Florida Archeological Society desperately needs our help with the salvage excavation on Chokoloskee Island. The last remaining undeveloped portion will soon be destroyed by developers.

The dig will take place on Saturday and Sunday, October 11 & 12. The group will be meeting at 8:00 a.m. at the Visitor's Welcome Center, Carnestown (corner of US 1 & 41 and State Road 29) on both days. Come for a day or spend the entire weekend. Cars will be going from Miami. Call Bob Carr at 545-4228 to sign up.

John Beriault, President of SWFAS, feels that this is perhaps the most important project his group will ever undertake. Let's get involved!

FYI: Rooms may be gotten at:

The Rod & Gun Club, (813)695-2101, Blue Heron Motel, 695-2351, Port of the Islands, 394-3101

GET DOWN AND GET DIRTY

Remember why you joined this Society? Remember the lure of taking something worthwhile out of the dirt? Remember the excitement of seeing what showed up in the screens as the dirt was sifted out? Remember the amazement as a lump of nothing turned into a "keeper" under the spray from the hose? Remember the friendships made, the bad jokes, the good jokes, the lunch break under the trees?

Well, it's still available. Complete with a pint of perspiration and all the dirt you can carry home on your body.

At Wes Coleman's tree-lined one-acre backyard sits the leavin's of the Cheetum site - many truck loads of archaeologically rich material waiting to be screened, washed, examined.

So get on down and get dirty with us. Call Wes at 226-6788 for directions to 10 NW 124 Ave.

Seth Lefkow

The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, October 4, Sunday October 19, Saturday, October 25, Sunday, November 2, Saturday, November 8, at 9:30 a.m. Note: Columbus Day Weekend (October 11,12,13) will be skipped.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN MAYA ARCHEOLOGY

Dr. Tom Hester of the University of Texas at San Antonio is funding the Spring 1987 Colha project in Northern Belize through an Earthwatch-type volunteer program. Spend a week or two excavating this famous Maya site located on a beautiful ranch in culturally exciting Belize. For more information on the Archeology, the country, or rates (considerably more reasonable than Earthwatch), call Dr. Hester, 9 - 5 at (512)691-4378.

Marilyn Masson

ARCH CREEK ON NATIONAL REGISTER

Dade County's most recent listing on the National Register of Historic Places is one of the society's original "pet projects": Arch Creek Park in North Miami. Through the years, many ASSF members have been involved in excavation or education projects at the archaeological site, which represents over 2,000 years of cultural history in southeast Florida. Arch Creek has the distinction of being the first pre-historic archaeological site in the county to be placed on the National Register. A marine archaeological district, containing numerous historic shipwrecks, was listed in 1984.

The site was deemed significant because of the prehistoric Indian midden and the historic mill sluice, both located within the park's boundaries. The site was occupied by prehistoric Indians from circa 500 B.C. to A.D. 1300 and the historic Tequesta and Seminole Indians lived in the area through the 1800s. The sluice at Arch Creek is important because it was part of a coontie mill. The coontie starch business was an industry unique to southeast Florida in the nineteenth century which involved processing the roots of the coontie plant (Zamia integrifolia) into an edible starch product. Of course Arch Creek is also important as the location of the natural limestone bridge which once formed an arch across the creek. The Military Trail of the Seminole Wars, the first county road, and later the Dixie Highway, all followed almost identical routes crossing Arch Creek at the natural bridge.

As one of the few preserved archaeological sites in Dade County with public access, the park offers experiences that cannot be found anywhere else in the area. Educational programs are available which include guided tours on the nature trail, archaeology workshops, and plant and bird identification classes. If you haven't been to Arch Creek Park, why not visit the site soon and enjoy Dade County's newest addition to the "honor roll of historic sites".

Emily Perry Dieterich



101 West Flagler Street  
Miami, Florida 33130

---

 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  
101 West Flagler Street  
Miami, Florida 33130

My name does not matter. I am one of many early Dade County residents. I had resided at what you called 8Da 1058 or the Cheetum Site. I walked up on this island - the surface just out of the water and the oolite caprock covered with small stones, soil, grass and a few palmettos. The date ... you know it from the C14 you took from my campfire. The coals dated 5120 BP +/- 160.

You know I didn't have much dry land to walk on from the old pond apple snail shore line you found. Even though I was just above the water, I could see for miles over the Glades. I could see the other camps from here ... Trail, Pipe, Bob Cat, Hog ... I liked traveling to those camps, sharing food - you know - fish turtle, snake, deer, gator - and trading for shell beads which I now wear.

Today I have gone into the big sleep. My comrades have put me to rest in the position of birth. You call it the primary fetal position. They also put another's skull with me. I'll let you know why someday, but not now. I still have my shell beads, good.

Time passes by quickly. I find myself entombed in concretion. There are others in the big sleep above me. What is the date? 4020 B.P. +/- 370.

Something's changing! There are more people now, eating deer and turtle still, and making vessels out of clay and tools out of shell! Still making bone points and hair pins as I did. I see something new - stone points and copper beads ... must be trading with those north of here.

What day is it today? 400 A.D. - Glades I. Everything is good. Something is happening again. What time is it? 1600 A.D. Look! Glass beads, glass bottles, iron spikes, copper nails. Who are these new people?

Why is the island so quiet? 1730 A.D. Have all the people gone into the big sleep? Yes, they have put them to rest - differently then in my time. They are bundled up like packages.

Whose are the voices I hear? What time is it now? 3/3/84. A group of Dade County residents are here. Why? They say they came to save us and our life story, if they can.

Today I saw the sun for the first time in thousands of years. I have been released from my time capsule of concretion. I still have my shell beads.

I am at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. I'll be here for a short time and my new friends say they're going to find a new place for me and my comrades to rest. A safe place, forever. Back in the Everglades, I hope.

Now I know why I was moved. My island, Da 1058, is gone, as hundreds of others have gone. I am glad you came. Others have not been as fortunate. Our personal things are for you to save and share. Let them know who we were and what we did. I know our story is in good hands.

Yours forever,

Your Neighbor

Wes Coleman

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1 Harvest Exhibit Committee Meeting. Call Ruth at 279-2735.  
October 11 & 12 Chokoloskee Salvage Excavation. Call Bob at 545-4228.  
October 11 & 12 Jeanie McGuire's Archeology Class. Call 375-1625.  
October 17 Board of Directors Meeting, 6pm, Sue Goldman's house,  
7730 SW 52nd Ct., S. Miami, 661-2073  
October 17 Membership Meeting, 8pm, The Audubon House, 5530 Sunset  
Drive, South Miami.  
November 5-8 Southeastern Archeological Conference, 1986, Nashville, TN.  
Call Emily P. Dieterich for details, 545-4230.

SORTING DAYS (Cheetum Site Material)

Saturday, October 4  
Sunday, October 19  
Saturday, October 25  
Sunday, November 2  
Saturday, November 8 at 9:30 a.m:

(Cutler Fossil Site)

Monday - Friday, 8-4:30 pm  
Call Ruth at 252-0069

Wes Coleman's house, 10 NW 130th Avenue

226-6788



HELP GOODWILL  
HELP  
THE HANDICAPPED



101 West Flagler Street  
Miami, Florida 33130

Emily Perry Dieterich  
6230 Grant Court  
Hollywood, FL 33024