



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

CHAPTER

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 13 Number 3 Newsletter MARCH 1988

President: W.S. Steele Editor: Debra Goldman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March's Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday, March 18, 1988 at 6:00 pm at Beth Read's office, 1489 South Miami Avenue, Miami. All interested members are welcome to attend. Board members please be prompt.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On December 5 and 6, 1987, the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy participated in the re-enactment of the Battle of Okeechobee, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Christmas Day charge. This culminated a two-year study by the A.H.C. which has located the actual battle site and camp site. The conflict, conceived by Col. Zachary Taylor and led by Col. Richard Gentry, has been called the bloodiest battle of the Second Seminole War. Participating in this re-enactment was Gentry Sayad, Col. Gentry's great, great, great grandson, carrying the same sword as did Col. Gentry, who died in the battle while urging forward his Missouri Volunteers.

A video tape was made of the re-enactment and activities of December 5 and 6. The Federal soldiers were supervised by Bill Steele, the Indian warriors, by Wes Coleman. Each will narrate the video tape, describing the battle from his particular vantage point.

Following this will be a brief presentation by Bill Steele of the 1837 Battle of Fort Foster.

The meeting will be on Friday, March 18 at 8:00 p.m. at the Audubon House, 5580 Sunset Drive, South Miami. Refreshments will follow.

John Carruthers

FAKAHATCHEE FIELD TRIP

A field trip to the Fakahatchee Strand in the Big Cypress Preserve is planned for March 20, to be led by A.S.S.F. member Sue Goldman. Bring binoculars and lunch and come out to enjoy South Florida's unique environment and wildlife before the mosquitos do!

All interested members should meet at the F.I.U. (Florida International University) Visitors Parking Lot at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 20. F.I.U. is located on S.W. 107th Avenue between S.W. 8th Street and Coral Way.

HARNEY v. JONES

The skirmish between Lt. Col. William Harney and Sam Jones that occurred in Dade County on April 24, 1838 will be re-enacted at the Charles Deering Estate, exactly 150 years later.

Please contact Wes Coleman for additional information on the History Fair and Re-enactment to be held on April 24, 1988.

PALENQUE & BONAMPAK TOUR!!

An archaeological tour is being planned to visit the Mayan cities of Palenque and Bonampak in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. Both sites are near the southern edge of the Mayan empire, about 400 miles from Merida and not far from Guatemala. They are in an area of high jungle forest, very different from the dry scrubby conditions around Chichen Itza and Uxmal and are relatively little visited as compared to the more accessible ruins near Merida.

Tentative plans are for a 5 day, 4 night trip leaving on Thursday, April 7 and returning Monday, April 11. (A return on Sunday can probably be arranged for those who must be back on Monday morning.) We will fly to Merida and take an overnight sleeper compartment train to Palenque and spend a full day (Friday) at the site. The following day (Saturday) will be spend visiting Bonampak and later that night, we'll return to Merida via the overnight train, arriving Sunday morning. Sunday can be spent resting, shopping, or touring near Merida.

Total cost will be known once details have been worked out, but it is hoped that it will be quite moderate. Anyone interested should contact Marilyn at Continental World Tours at 232-2112.

Stanley Kiem

40th ANNUAL F.A.S. MEETING

The Florida Anthropological Society will hold its annual meeting at the Ramada Inn, Altamonte Springs (near Orlando) on May 6,7,8. Besides the many terrific papers which will be given on Saturday and Sunday, May 7 & 8, tours to the Orlando Science Center, Orlando Art Center, Orange County Historical Museum and Lock Haven Park (where there will be a pre-historic exhibit) are scheduled for the weekend.

For those new members who may not be familiar with it, the F.A.S. is the parent organization of which the A.S.S.F. is a member chapter. In addition to archaeology, F.A.S. members are interested in anthropology, ethnology and various related topics. Membership includes a subscription to THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGIST, a quarterly journal on related topics. To join, send your name, address and check (\$12.00 Regular membership, \$18.00 Family membership, \$25.00 Sustaining, \$100.00 Patron) to:

Membership Secretary, F.A.S., 308 6th Street, N.E., Largo, FL 34640.

BATTLE BY BILL

The Battle of Okeechobee, written by W.S. Steele, commissioned and published by the Archaeological & Historical Conservancy is now available for purchase. The book is the most complete account of the little known Christmas Day battle, containing biographies of each who played a major role in the clash. 1838 maps, figures, and photos are also included. The cover is a beautiful color replica of artist Guy Labree's painting, "The Battle of Okeechobee."

The A.H.C. will donate \$1.00 to the A.S.S.F. for every book sold to members. The cost is \$8.00 including postage. To order your copy, please make your check payable to:

Archaeological & Historical Conservancy, Inc. (A.H.C.)

and send to:

Wes Coleman, 10 N.W. 124th Avenue, Miami, FL 33172

(The books will also be available at our March meeting for \$7.00.)

THANKS

Member Mary Keim has donated to the society a variety of items which she has collected over the years. She has specified that these articles are to be used for the benefit of the society. This donation is greatly appreciated and on behalf of the board and the membership, we want to express our appreciation and say, Thank-you, Mary!

Thank you, too, to the many contributors to this month's newsletter, namely Beth Read, Stan Kiem, Wes Coleman, Judi Trimble, Sue Goldman, John Carruthers and Art Lee.

1988 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The following is the 1988 A.S.S.F. Slate of Officers and Board Members:

President	Beth Read
Vice-President	John Ayer
Secretary	Vivian Peters
Alternate Secretary	Jeanie McGuire
Treasurer	John Carruthers II

Director, 3-yr term	Jack Erne
Director, 3-yr term	Seth Lefkow

Continuing on as Directors are Robert Carr, Debra Goldman and Jim Lord.

The Nominating Committee welcomes any additional nominations. Thank you Judi Trimble, Wes Coleman and Sue Goldman!

You will be receiving a ballot in your April newsletter. ONLY PAID MEMBERS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE!!

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:

- 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.
- 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: _____ Signature: _____

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 1988

c/o Beth Read
1489 South Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33131

New Tools Are Aiding Excavation Of Sites

NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1988

Archaeologist takes a computer to the field.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22 — Archaeologists may be inspired by lofty dreams of a major find, but their days in the field are often more prosaic: as they excavate, they must record by hand the mountain of detail they unearth, in a tedious, time-consuming and error-prone process.

Now an archeologist has combined advanced surveying tools with computer technology to devise a faster and more accurate mapping system. It not only enables researchers to record their findings in meticulous, easy-to-use form, but also frees them from drudge work and gives them more time to analyze the material.

The new method uses the electronic theodolite and the instrument's built-in electronic distance meter, a mapping device used by surveyors. The theodolite, an 10-pound instrument about the size of a bread box, is particularly useful because it can measure distances of less than two millimeters to more than two kilometers away. It had previously been used in archeology to measure areas and elevations.

First Used at French Site

Harold L. Dibble, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, developed the new use for the surveying tool at the Middle Paleolithic site he was excavating at La Quina, France, in 1986 with the Institut du Quaternaire of the University of Bordeaux, the University of Arizona and the University of Pennsylvania.

Before he used the theodolite, Dr. Dibble says, the team of archeologists recorded 2,000 tools and bones in one season; the next season, they recorded 7,000 items using the theodolite. He said that the theodolite was accurate within several millimeters and has reduced the overall field measurement time by 60 percent.

The theodolite is an improvement over the conventional method for gathering and recording field observations because it can almost instantly record the three-dimensional coordinates of an object in the position in which it is found. The theodolite streamlines a multistep operation that used to take at least one minute

into just five seconds.

The latest even improvements let the researchers call up a video image of the actual excavation site, or a photo of it, and see the exact location where the artifact lay.

The researcher places a small prism reflector at various points on an object. The theodolite's built-in electronic distance meter can measure how far away the object is by emitting a laser to the center of the prism, then measuring the time it takes for the beam to return to the theodolite. The measurements are then calculated into X, Y, and Z coordinates, which tell the archeologist precisely where the object lies on a three-dimensional grid of length, width and breadth.

Computer Makes Tags

The data taken by the theodolite can also be transmitted into a small computer, along with information on the object's classification, its stratigraphic layer and the initials of the excavator. A small thermal printer at

the site produces a tag with this data to be wrapped with the artifact for analysis at the lab.

The system, which includes the theodolite, computer and accessories, costs about \$19,000. Besides saving time, the system raises the morale and energy levels of the excavators, Dr. Dibble said.

The computerized system is further enhanced by a new software program developed by Dr. Dibble for quick editing and retrieval of the data. The program graphically displays the color-coded artifacts through various perspectives. The site can be observed from any angle, top, bottom or side. Individual and combinations of objects or layers can be retrieved for observation.

Dr. Dibble said his program eliminated the time it takes to pore over numerous sheets of graph paper or to re-plot points on them in order to isolate one type of artifact or to see the relationship of several types. Soon, he said, the database will contain photographs of the objects and site.

Sun-Sentinel, Thursday, February 11, 1988

EXCAVATION ECSTASY

Shipwreck find may provide a glimpse of life on vessels hundreds of years ago.

By ROBERT McCLURE
Staff Writer

A newly discovered shipwreck off the Palm Beach County coast represents the best opportunity yet for scientists to reconstruct life aboard the sailing vessels that piled Florida's waters hundreds of years ago, a state official said on Wednesday.

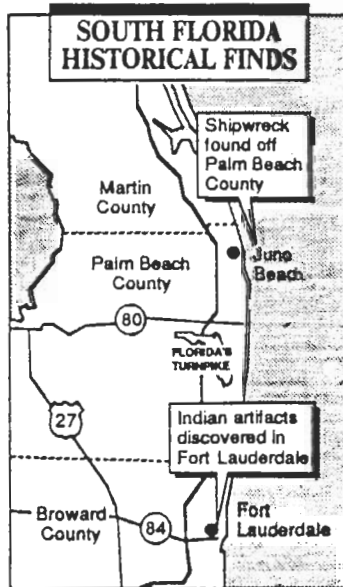
"This could be Florida's showpiece shipwreck," said Roger Smith, underwater archaeologist for the Florida Division of Historical Resources.

The vessel appears to be buried in the sand and undisturbed by salvagers, so it could amount to a "time capsule" that would enable scientists to re-create what life was like aboard the ship, Smith said.

While there may turn out to be gold or silver aboard, the true treasure is for archaeologists, Smith said.

"We're talking about a little floating world, a microcosm, that suddenly fell through the cracks of time," he said. "There's a good chance that the complete picture of the ship will be able to be reconstructed if proper archaeology is done."

SEE SHIPWRECK / 8A



Staff graphic/BONNIE LALLKY

Indian artifacts found at the site of the planned Performing Arts Center.

By LARRY BERNARD
Science Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — Archaeologists excavating at the site of the planned Performing Arts Center have found hundreds of artifacts from an Indian camp that may be 4,000 years old, a discovery that could delay construction of the \$43 million theater complex.

"If it shows a burial ground, it would stop the work entirely," said Tom Bretherton, a board member of the Broward County Archaeological Society who is leading the dig. "More than likely it's not a burial, but we just don't know yet."

A state law that took effect in October requires the preservation of any unmarked burial ground or cemetery older than 75 years. If the remains are not that old, the local medical examiner must investigate.

"It's not the intent of the law to stop development or hold up construction or impede progress in the state," said Jim Miller, Florida's chief archaeologist. "When human remains are discovered, construction that might disturb those remains will stop. But construction can carry on

SEE ARTIFACTS / 8A

Area archaeologists say site may have been a camp for Indians to cut up sharks

FROM PAGE 1A

ARTIFACTS

somewhere else in an adjacent area.

Jan Vanderwind, construction supervisor of the re-forming Arts Center, said he does not see the archaeological find as a problem and that crews will work ground in May as planned. The lot is vacant.

"They found a couple of little bitty things there," he said. "Let's see what they come up with first. There's a solution for everything."

Arts center officials want to have construction contracts signed in April, Vanderwind said.

That does not give archaeologists much time, because excavation, dating and cataloging is a laborious process.

Jerry Kennedy, a Florida Atlantic University anthropologist called in to assist in the work, said it was too soon to tell the significance of the site. The excavation began about two months ago.

"We really don't know until you do some more work other than to say there is something there. I wouldn't call it much more than a seasonal campsite at this point," Kennedy said.

"Hopefully the people who own the property will let us do a little more excavation there. It looks like an interesting site."

Digging only about 3 1/4 feet down in a 10-foot-by-10-foot pit, members of the archaeological society have found about 150 shell tools, hundreds of shark teeth and vertebrae, carved wood and conch shell collections. The find is on a patch of the arts center site on the north bank of the New River, just west of downtown Fort Lauderdale.

The pit is on the spot planned for the Great Hall, the center's main theater.

Amateur archaeologists deduced that the Indians were great fishermen who ventured to the ocean for their catch, possibly using the site being excavated as a fishing camp.

"They were apparently going out to the ocean, bringing back whole sharks and cutting them up here. This was some kind of shark and shell factory," Bretherton said.



STAFF PHOTO/ANNE RYAN

Tom Bretherton of the Broward County Archaeological Society examines tools made from conch shells.

erton said.

Among the finds were hundreds of teeth from tiger sharks, saltwater fish that would not venture up the New River, that were lashed to sticks and used as saws to cut meat and bone. Some of the shark vertebrae indicate the fish were longer than 20 feet.

Decorative fish bones also are scattered at the site, and conch shells fashioned to use as tools are numerous.

Also at the site were the bones of dozens of animals that appear to date to about 2000 B.C., Bretherton said. Among them were bones of alligators, deer, turtles, tortoises, snakes and several types of water and land birds, raccoons, possums, a panther or other feline, possibly a dog and maybe a bear.

Shipwreck discovery made in 1977; shifting sands revealed its hull in 1987

FROM PAGE 1A

SHIPWRECK

The four amateur archaeologists who found the wreck in 100-foot-deep, shifting sands 1 1/2 miles off the coast of Juno Beach said the site's value is for scientific exploration, not commercial exploitation.

Any historically significant artifacts will go to a maritime museum to be built in Palm Beach County, said Nancy Wallace, an officer of Archaeological Recovery Services Inc., the group paying for the exploration.

Commercial fisherman Nelson Wait discovered the wreck when he caught a brief glimpse of an anchor in 1977, Wallace said.

But not until September 1987, when sands had shifted to also reveal part of the hull, did Wait and other ARS members return and realize there was a shipwreck there, she said.

If the finders stick with their plans not to commercialize the site, the vessel could well be the most significant shipwreck in Florida history, Smith said.

Two Fort Lauderdale marine archaeologists who have studied the wreck hypothesize that the ship belonged to Spain and was returning there from the Caribbean between 1600 and 1800.

But the archaeologists, Peter Throckmorton and Bill Raymond, say it is far too early to speculate on whether the wreck contains riches such as gold or silver, or even what type of ship it was.

The shipwreck is dubbed the Ambrosia site until the real name of the ship is determined, ARS member Victor Benlious said. Benlious runs the Ambrosia restaurant in West Palm Beach.

The Ambrosia wreck differs from more famous finds in two ways, Smith and the archaeologists said. First, it is in deep water. Virtually all ships wrecked near Florida ran aground or hit shallow coral reefs, archaeologists said. The Spaniards regularly salvaged what they could from those wrecks, decreasing their usefulness to scientists.

Also, there are no signs that modern-day salvors equipped with scuba gear have disturbed the ship's remains, Raymond said.

Florida is more famous for wrecks such as *La Nueve*, *La Senora de Atocha*, the Spanish galleon that ran aground in shallow waters west of Key West in a 1622 hurricane.

The *Atocha's* \$400 million bounty, reaped by treasure salvor Mel Fisher, brought nationwide attention to Florida's salvaging industry in 1985.

But Smith, whose job is to manage Florida's underwater archaeological resources, said the vessel off Juno Beach appears to be far more important archae-



PHOTO/SEAN DOUGHERTY

Nancy Wallace and Victor Benlious look at lead plate from Spanish ship.

ologically than *Atocha* and hundreds of other wrecks that stretch from the Florida Keys to Cape Canaveral. "The real treasure is in the archaeological interpretation of it," Smith said.

The wreckage covers about 800 square feet, but metal detectors show it is spread out underneath the sand over a larger area, Benlious said.

Throckmorton and Raymond said they thought the ship was of Spanish origin because it was built of oak, and the outside was covered with a Spanish-style lead sheeting to keep out parasitic worms.

They hypothesize that it had traded in the Caribbean because a worm native to that area had bored into a part of the hull despite the lead sheeting.

Because the ship sank in such deep water, and because the current there is so swift, the archaeologists think none of the salvors could have survived.

ARS obtained a federal court order last month allowing the firm exclusive rights to salvage the site, Benlious said. But the group plans to make archaeological its first priority, he said.

"Anything that ever comes out of this commercially is just gravy," Benlious said.

DATES

March 18	Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Beth Read's office
March 18	Membership Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Audubon House
March 20	Fakahatchee Field Trip, 9:00 a.m., F.I.U. Visitors Parking Lot
April 7-11	Palenque and Bonampak Excursion
April 24	Harney-Jones Skirmish, Deering Estate
May 6,7,8	F.A.S. Meeting, Altamonte Springs

OMB

CA



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