



**The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida
Chapter
The Florida Anthropological Society**

Volume 13 Number 11
President: Beth Read

November - 1988
Editor: Pat Cervi

**Board of Directors
Meeting**

**Friday, November 18, 1988
1489 S. Miami Avenue
6:00 p.m.**



Our regular November Board Meeting will be held at **Beth Read's** office, immediately prior to the November General Meeting. All board members are urged to attend to help finalize plans for the numerous upcoming activities. Interested members at large are invited and welcomed. •

Dates to Remember

Nov.

Nov. 18: Friday, November Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., November General Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 19-20: Saturday and Sunday, The Harvest

Dec 3: Saturday, ASSF Yard Sale

Dec. 9: Friday, ASSF Annual Holiday Dinner Meeting

Each Weekend: Indian Key Restoration Project, Indian Key, Islamorada, Florida

**November General
Meeting**

**Friday, November 18, 1988
7:30 p.m.
Simpson Park**

The November General Meeting will be held at Simpson Park 55 S.W. 17th Road, Miami. (The Park is just off South Miami Avenue, close to the I-95 exit. Call 856-6801 for directions.)

Member **Sonja Noah** will present a slide show and narrative account of her recent trip to China as a participant in a People to People archaeological exchange. Sonja had an opportunity to actually work alongside Chinese archaeologists at an ongoing "dig" and to visit the famous archaeological site at Zian during her trip.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

**NOTE THE CHANGE IN
THE MEETING NIGHT TO
FRIDAY. •**

**October General Meeting
Cape Florida Lighthouse**

The October General Meeting was held in the form of a picnic on Sunday afternoon, October 23rd, at Cape Florida State Park in Key Biscayne.

Member **John Ayer** arranged for our group to use the fenced lighthouse compound, and we were privileged to enjoy our lunch on the porch of the reconstructed keeper's cottage.

John Ayer brought maps and photos, and gave a brief history of the lighthouse and previous archaeological excavations conducted on the site. The group toured the small museum located in the keeper's house and the lighthouse. The weather was beautiful, the food was superb and the view was spectacular! A thank-you to everyone who contributed and especially to John for arranging a most enjoyable afternoon for our members and friends. •

*See
You at Our
November Meeting!*

Yard Sale

Treasurer **John Carruthers** reports that ASSF resources are nearly depleted. To help replenish our coffers, the Board has scheduled a yard sale for Saturday, December 3, 1988.

A yard near the Palmetto and Miller Road has been donated for our use on that day. Please gather any items that are cluttering your closets and shelves and bring a boxful to our November General Meeting.

If you forget, or are unable to attend the meeting, member **Jim Lord** generously will allow any donated items to be dropped off at his home, 2800 S.W. 104 Court, near the FIU Tamiami Campus. Or, you may drop items off at member **John Carruthers'** home at 5740 S.W. 64 Avenue, which is only a few blocks from the yard sale site. John requests that you call him at 665-6633 (evenings) prior to delivering items to his home.

All the usual yard sale items are welcome, including but not limited to small appliances, tools, kitchen utensils, dishes, glassware, clothes, games, puzzles, toys, etc. For more information call **Beth Read** at 361-2102 evenings. •

The Harvest

The "Harvest" the traditional fair sponsored by the Historical Museum of South Florida will be held the week-end of November 19-20, 1988 at Tamiami Park, 11201 S.W. 24th Street.

ASSF again will share a booth with the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy. The Harvest is a highlight of the fall season. All members are urged to join the fun. We will need your help to staff the booth. Anyone interested in adding an hour at the booth to their visit to the fair, please leave a message in **John Ayer's** machine at 238-2441. •

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ASSF Board Members

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President, Beth Read
Vice President, John Ayer
Treasurer, John Carruthers
Secretary, Vivian Peters
Directors:
Bob Carr
Debra Goldman
Seth Lefkow
Jim Lord
Barbara Tansey

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 site for the unscientific collecting of artifacts.
2. All artifacts and material recovered from society projects are the property of the society.

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

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Renewal _____ New Member _____ \$12.00 Individual _____ \$15.00 Family _____

Mail check or money order to: The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, 1489 S. Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131

Traditional Holiday Dinner Party Scheduled

Our December General Meeting is also an ASSF tradition - a dinner meeting to honor the approaching holidays. The date is Friday, December 9th and the place is the newly reconstructed firehouse on South Miami Avnue. The firehouse has

been converted to a delightful restaurant.

Please mark the date on your calendar and join us at Firehouse Four on Friday, December 9th. Details will be in our next newsletter. •



Ice age creatures may have lived at ancient fossil site near Tampa

GAINESVILLE - (UPI) University of Florida scientists say an area near Tampa Bay may have been the first North American home of hairy ice age creatures.

The scientists have identified a 1.5 million-year-old fossil site near Tampa Bay as possibly the oldest North American domain of mammoths, giant sloths and saber-tooth tigers.

Using a marine-fossil dating technique for the first time on land animal fossils, university geologists and paleontologists have learned the age of the continent's richest fossil site from the early Pleistocene Epoch, or ice age, David Webb, paleontologist at the Florida Museum of Natural History, said Thursday.

Their discovery about fossils from the Leisey Shell Pit near Ruskin may help scientists learn more about camels, giant beavers and other ice age creatures and why they disap-

peared from ancient regions that now include Florida some 10,000 years ago, he said.

Scientists suspect the closing of the Panama Isthmus, the land bridge linking North and South America, may be responsible for these extinctions in North America by altering ocean currents and changing the world's climate, said Douglas Jones, a UF geologist and paleontologist. Researchers believe their new application of the unconventional radioactive dating technique will help scientists learn whether the closure helped cause the extinction of these land creatures.

"Extinctions have always captivated human interest," Jones said. "The more precisely we can learn when these vertebrates became extinct and when the closing of the Panama Isthmus occurred, the better we can understand whether there is a direct connection."

Conventional methods date

Florida land fossils up to 40,000 years old. But marine fossils such as seashells can be dated millions of years using this new dating method, he said.

Since seashells were found in the Leisey Shell Pit, UF scientists were able to use them as a guidepost for determining the age of land-dwelling fossils occurring in the same site.

"The new fossil-dating application holds great promise for Florida with its long coastline and many shallow marine settings," Jones said. "It gives us a unique opportunity to tie together terrestrial and marine records of animals, which will help in reconstructing the climatic and ecological conditions of the past."

The bone of mammoths, camels, and other terrestrial animals were probably carried by flooding streams from the coastal grassland to the shallow bay setting of the Leisey Shell Pit, Webb said •



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