



# The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida

## Chapter, The Florida Anthropological Society

Volume 14 Number 10  
President: Beth Read

October - 1989  
Editor: Pat Cervi

## October General Meeting

The October General Meeting will be held Friday, October 20th at 7:30 p.m. in Simpson Park which is located at 55 S.W. 17th Road, Miami. (The park is just off South Miami Avenue, close to I-95. (Call 856-6801 for directions.)

Underwater archaeology will be explored during the next two general membership meetings. On October 20, **Seth Lefkow** will report on the Conference on Underwater and Wet-site Archaeology held in Ft. Lauderdale on October 7, 1989, and **Aaron Read** will present a film on underwater archaeology. Local divers and photographers, Saul and Mildred Weinstein, will share their underwater photographs and discuss underwater photography techniques.

### Upcoming Meetings, Conferences

Upcoming on November 17, Archaeologist Lisa Shuey-Richardson, will discuss underwater archaeology in the Mediterranean where she has worked extensively.

The annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference will be held in Tampa, Florida from November 8-11, 1989. For information contact Nancy White, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33601; phone 813/974-2209 04 3231. Continued on page 3

### Board of Directors

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

#### Directors

Bob Carr Jim Lord  
Caridad Planas  
Barbara Tansey  
Sonja Noah Seth Lefkow  
Pat Cervi

### October Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, October 20, 1989  
1489 S. Miami Avenue  
6:00 p.m.

Our regular October Board of Directors Meeting will be held at **Beth Read's** office, immediately prior to the October General Meeting at Simpson Park.

All board members are urged to attend. Interested members at large are invited and welcomed.

## Items of Interest

**John Ayer** is coordinating the Society's activities at the Harvest Festival the weekend of November 18. Please plan to attend.

**Bill Lyons** has volunteered artifacts and reproductions of artifacts such as conch shells and Indian pottery. Volunteers are needed to man the booth both days of the festival.

**Bob Carr** reported on the Miramar (Pine Island Oaks) site in Broward County where primary burials of Indians were found which appear to be 1,000 to 2,000 years old. He will request volunteers if a dig materializes.

There is also a tree island site in Kendall near Krome Avenue which is not an endangered site, but warrants a test project. It was suggested that the Society take full responsibility for the project, doing the layout, keeping records and writing reports.

**Jim Lord** is writing an article for the Florida Anthropologist concerning a cat-like artifact he found.

The Okkeechobee battlefield reenactment will be held in December.

Be sure and collect your unusables and discardables for the Society's Gargage Sale in January. This project is a lot of fun and a money maker for the Society's coffers.

Welcome to new member **David Bonnewell**. David joined the Society at our last meeting.

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# Tribe members were commuters - in canoes

by Charles E. Hecker  
Herald Staff Writer

The Tequesta Indians were hunters, gatherers, craftsmen, and fishermen. And, it appears, early day commuters.

"They were using canoes pretty much the way we use cars." Dade County Archaeologist **Bob Carr** said.

The Tequesta (pronounced either tekwesta or tekesta) Indians are the descendents of the first prehistoric people to live on the Florida peninsula. They were "discovered" in Florida by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513, but their ancestors had probably been there thousands of years earlier, said Jerald T. Milanich, an archaeologist at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida.

Tequesta civilization was probably at its peak when they were

discovered by the Europeans. Spanish archives and reports from the founding of St. Augustine and its missions in the 1560s describe their culture.

Milanich said the Tequestas survived by hunting and fishing. They shuttled back and forth between the coast and the Everglades in canoes. They also gathered wild cocoplum, sea grapes and prickly pears.

The abundance of fish, wildlife, and vegetation in what is now Broward and Dade meant the Tequesta did not have to cultivate the land. But the tribe did develop the social and political systems typical of complex agricultural tribes, such as a hierarchy of chiefs believed to be descendents of the sun.

The Tequesta did not live in a vacuum. Carr said they waged war with the west coast Calusa Indians, and were paying tribute to them by the 1600s. Milanich isn't completely

sure the tribute means the Calusas conquered the Tequestas; rather, it might indicate some sort of alliance or allegiance, he said.

The Tequestas eventually fell victims to disease, and by the mid 1700s, they numbered only in the hundreds. Spanish fishermen took many of the survivors to Cuba.

"Essentially, the indigenous people of South Florida became extinct," Milanich said.

More than anything else, though, the Tequestas were busy, industrious, creative and prosperous in their day...[according to]... Milanich.

Miami Herald, Broward Edition, September 15, 1989.

## 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 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

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The Miami Conference for Pre-Colombian Studies, sponsored by the Institute of Maya Studies, will be held in Miami at the Museum of Science on December 1 and 1, 1989. For information call 854-4242.

### Open Letter from Dean Sligh

A promissising new approach to the problems inherent in the working relationship between amateurs and professionals in the field of archaeology has been launched by the Florida Anthropological Society, of which our society is a chapter. FAS amateur member Dean Sligh has issued the following open letter to the FAS with details of the proposals and an appeal for cooperation and assistance.

**Synergism** - The combined action of two or more agencies to achieve an effect far greater than that of which each is individually capable. What could more accurately describe the results achieved by the smoothly-functioning teamwork of professional archaeologists and their avocational counterparts?

**Disastrous** - A grave occurrence having ruinous results. Webster surely must have had the indiscriminate potholer in mind as he defined this work. Once lost... forever lost. With every thrust of his shovel, the potholer destroys forever the fragile evidence left behind by our ancient ancestors. Meaningful stratigraphy becomes meaningless rubble.

Which will portray Florida archaeology for the 1990's and beyond - synergistic teamwork or disastrous potholing?

At the June FAS Board Meeting in Gainesville, seven open-minded professional archaeologists and seven highly-motivated amateur archaeologists discussed the very serious and very real problems confronting the two groups. Two major problems expressed by most professional are 1. a lack of adequate time (and energy?) after a demanding five to six day work week to spend weekends supervising and training amateur groups,

and 2. the potential of unlimited free labor of amateur groups jeopardizing a paying contract for professionals. On the other side of the coin, amateurs who are anxious to "dig-in" and learn, and are willing to work under professional guidance, are frequently told, "You can't do this, you can't do that, and Florida Statute such and such specifically forbids you from doing anything in between!"

Far too often the tail wags the dog as several dozen eager amateurs wait impatiently for a professional to be available to accompany them and supervise their excavation activities. And, as in the days of prohibition, human nature will find a way. Bottom line? Bathtub gin and potholing!!

After unanimously agreeing upon the problems, a course of action was outlined which may well mark a major turning point in Florida Archaeology. FAS president, Jerry Hyde, appointed a three member task force to begin implementing the program. Bill Johnson, FAS Newsletter Editor, who is currently working on his doctorate, and Valerie Jackson Bell, winner of the prestigious 1989 FASS Bullen Award, will represent the professionals and CFAS Vice President, Dean Sligh, will coordinate the position of the amateurs.

First priority will be to establish an FAS state office in Gainesville as closer as possible to the University. This will give the FAS a permanent place of business (instead of musical chairs addresses following the incoming, outgoing presidents across the state). The second step will be to hire a full time Executive Director. This will establish the FAS as a living, functioning organization on a day-to-day basis instead of a quarterly meeting, chiefly honorary, organization.

After the first two major objectives have been accomplished, the FAS will begin an organized effort to have District Archaeologists appointed by the state to work closely with the FAS chapters. They will be available to help in the planning and

supervising of field activities by members of the FAS chapters within each of their districts. In addition, the avocational training and certification programs of Illinois, Arkansas, and other states will be carefully studied in an effort to duplicate them in some manner here in Florida.

A great deal of work, time and money will be needed to bring in the harvest. Harold Cardwell, FAS President for the past two years, expressed confidence that funding could be procured to get things started and indicated he would begin working on that immediately. If a handful of dedicated members put their shoulders to the wheel we can probably accomplish our major objectives in five to six years. If all 600+ FAS members participate in the areas of their greatest strengths the time will be greatly shortened and the results will be multiplied many times.

Please - get involved! Take an evening or two to jot down your ideas, your suggestions, your related experiences, and send them to Bill Johnson, FAS, P.O. Box 13265, Gainesville, FL 32604. Working together on this we can truly put Florida Archaeology on the world map.

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## T-shirts - Hats T-shirts - Hats

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A.S.S.F. T-shirts in red, light blue, silver and pink with a black logo, will be on sale for \$10.00 each at every meeting.

Light blue hats with a black logo are available for \$7.00 each.

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## \$ DONATION \$

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Your Society needs a slide projector. Donations are being accepted so we can purchase our own piece of equipment and not have to borrow a projector every time we wish to show slides.

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Group Travel is planning a four day Thanksgiving weekend trip to Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. With a group of 20 we can receive special rates. Aero Mexico will leave early on **Wednesday, November 22** and return in the evening of **Saturday, November 25**.

The cost will include round trip air fare, hotel transfer, a three star hotel for three nights, and two archaeological expeditions, tentatively to Uxmal and the Caves of Kabah. Other day trips can be arranged. The price will be a \$285.00 per person, double occupancy.

Please call Marilyn Smith at 421-0122 if you would like to join us.

## Christmas Dinner Meeting

As is our custom, the December meeting consists of a dinner during which we can enjoy the company of friends, talk of future plans, re-hash the past year, and feed our faces. This year we were lucky to get the Coral Gables room on the 19th (count 'em) floor of the Doubletree Hotel (nee: Coconut Grove Hotel) at 2649 South Bayshore Drive in Coconut Grove. The view is terrific and the room is lovely.

DATE: December 15th - a Friday

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

COST: \$19.00 for a full London broil

dinner, salad, dessert, coffee, tax and tip included - Jackets please - tie optional

Parking is available at the hotel for a fee, or park on the street or at Merrill-Stevens just across Bayshore Drive.

Reservations are a **MUST** by December 10. Call Beth at her office 374-5699 or her home 361-2102.

We've had some fine dinners in the past. This one should be as good or better. Join us. We would love to have you!

Seth Lefkow



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