



The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida



Volume 26, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Society

February 2000

President: Barbara Tansey

Editor: Lisa Weier

Spring Garden Happenings...

Enjoy an evening of history and opportunity when Ernie Martin, President of the Spring Garden Civic Association, and Dr. James Broten, scientist and local historian, talk about the Spring Garden Historic District. Designated by the City of Miami in 1997 as the City's fourth historic district (after Morningside, Bayside, and Buena Vista East), the area has a rich South Florida history.

Located at the confluence of the Miami River and Wagner Creek, Spring Garden was home to some of Miami's earliest documented settlers. William Wagner had his home and church in the woods there (although his house has since been relocated to Lummus Park), and, later, one of Miami's first tourist attractions – Alligator Joe's Tropical Farm – was located there. John Seybold, Miami's first baker, subdivided the area in 1917, paved the path from downtown, and built a bridge across the Wagner Creek, to turn the area into one of the new City's first suburbs. Spring Garden is located between N.W. 7th Avenue and 12th Avenue, State Expressway 836 on the north, and the Miami River on the South.

The site of Alligator Joe's has never been developed since he left the site in 1913. The Spring Garden Civic Association, fending off a development proposal for a high-rise apartment building on the site, managed to raise the funds, with extensive technical support from the national conservation organization, The Trust for Public Land, to turn the site into Miami's first new public park in decades. The association accomplished this by agreeing to serve as the Park Manager for a period of seven years while the site is turned from a vacant lot into a passive natural area park, removing the City from any financial obligation of its development and maintenance while the City tries to solve its financial problems.

The neighborhood residents have assembled a talented team of volunteers who are guiding the site's development and fund raising. The first element of its work program calls for an archaeological excavation of the site, supervised by the County's Division of Historic Preservation, to determine the site's archaeological significance.

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Spring Garden Happenings

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The Association has reason to believe that this area once supported a Tequesta Indian settlement. To validate this belief the site will undergo a Phase One archaeological excavation supervised by John Ricisak. ASSF has been asked to help excavate the site. Hopefully, enough material or evidence of Tequesta activity will be found to justify a more extensive dig.

Please join us Thursday, February 10th, 7:30 p.m., Atlantic Radio Telephone, 2495 N.W. 35th Avenue, to learn more about this upcoming project. Call Barbara Tansey at (305) 633-9636 for directions.



Smithsonian Expeditions Exhibit at the Miami Museum of Science

You won't want to miss the Smithsonian Expeditions exhibit now running at the Miami Museum of Science entitled, "Exploring Latin America and the Caribbean."

The first major project to result from the Miami Museum of Science and Space Transit Planetarium's affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution, the 3,200-square-foot exhibit showcases the Smithsonian Institution's pioneering contributions to the study and preservation of the natural history and culture of the Americas for over 150 years.

This hands-on, interactive exhibit encompasses some of the earliest artifacts from our nation's collection many have never been seen by the public before.

The dark and gloomy tomb of King Pakal has been recreated, where visitors can enter and peer into the giant sarcophagus and carved stone lid that hid the Mayan king's remains.

Several other dramatic replicas are placed throughout the exhibit. Included are a ball court hoop and giant Peruvian stele, an Atlantean figure from Chichen Itza and a nine-foot Olmec head of what is believed to have been a ballplayer or an early king.

Maya, Aztec, Olmec, Tahino and other cultures are represented with pottery shards, ceramics and tool kits. The museum is open 9:30-6:00, Monday through Sunday. Group discounts are available.



Mark Your Calendars for our upcoming...

ARCHAEOLOGY FAIR



WHERE: Monkey Jungle
14805 S.W. 216th Street

WHEN: Sunday, March 5th, 10-4:00 p.m.

WHAT: Museum displays, lectures, videos, artifact displays, free handouts and information, flint knapping demonstrations, Florida memorabilia, and special dirt from which children can "excavate" authentic artifacts.

Talk to archaeologists who worked on the Miami Circle and view Miami Circle photos and information.

Call Barbara Tansey at (305) 633-9636 for more information.

Continuing Site Restoration of Indian Key

Restoration work will continue through Spring at the Indian Key site.

We need anyone that is interested in hot, dirty work. The park service will supply transportation to the island each day, shovels, wheelbarrows, drinking water, etc. Additional shovels and screens will be needed. Each person should bring with them each day - lunch, water or any other liquid you like (please - no alcohol), gloves and any tools you can lend us for this project. (Screens are greatly needed).

Please contact Seth Lefkow at (305) 868-2828 to volunteer and for directions.

Make a Note...

FAS Annual Conference

Join us for the FAS Conference 2000, May 5th to 7th, at Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort Hotel in downtown Fort Myers, on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River. FAC (Florida Archaeological Council) will host the reception at the Thomas A. Edison Home, ¼ mile from the hotel, and there are rumors of some great field trips in the works... Look for more information in the March newsletter.

Screen like a Banshee!

Please come out and help screen artifact-rich dirt rescued from the Bamboo Site, located at the Everglades Outpost in Homestead. Any help is appreciated and no experience is necessary!

Address: 35601 S.W. 192 Ave.
Call 305-247-8000 for directions.
(PS - wear something that can get very dirty)

Future Editorial Section

This space is reserved for future questions, answers and comments from our readers. [Letters must be received by the first of each month to be included in an upcoming newsletter. Content may be edited if space does not permit letter to be printed in full.]

Address your letters to: Lisa Weier, 6905 NW 25th St., Miami, FL 33122, or email Lisa at bigpicture14@ecoolworks.com

Upcoming Lecture:

Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls for Judaism and Christianity

Sponsored by AIA and UM Department of Religious Studies, hosted by Adolfo Roitman, Thursday, February 3rd, 8:00 p.m., Pearson Residential College, rooms 101 and 102. Call (305) 284-4733 for more information, (305) 284-4211 for directions.

Anyone interested in purchasing educational material can find the Florida Anthropological Society's video, "Shadows and Reflections on the Past," available at <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/auquilla111/FASvideo.htm>.

Topics covered include: Paleoindians - The Aucilla River; Tequesta - Cutler Ridge Mound; Apalachee - Lake Jackson Mounds; Timucua - Fort Caroline National Monument; and Calusa - Mound Key.

FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FAS membership application/renewal form

YES, I want to join **FAS**. I enclose \$ _____

- INDIVIDUAL, \$25 FAMILY, \$30 INSTITUTIONAL, \$25
- SUSTAINING, \$40 OR MORE PATRON, \$100 LIFE, \$500

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

PHONE (W) _____ (H) _____

Mail to: FAS Membership
 Terry Simpsons, CGCAS
 P.O. Box 82255
 Tampa, Florida 33682

RETURN ADDRESS:

The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida
 Barbara Tansey, President
 2495 NW 35th Avenue
 Miami, Florida 33142

NEXT MEETING: February 10th, 7:30 p.m.

SPEAKERS: Ernie Martin and Dr. James Broten,
Spring Garden Civic Association

OFFICERS:

Barbara Tansey, President; Jim Lord, Vice President;
 Brian Conesa, Treasurer; Manny Meland, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Marlene Adams, Bob Carr, Pat Cervl, George
 Cummings, Darrell Cunningham, Seth Lefkow,
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Lisa Weier can be reached at (305) 559-0411, or
bigpicture14@ecoolworks.com, for questions,
 comments, submissions or (oops!) corrections.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

ASSF membership application/renewal form

I have read and will abide by the Objectives and Code of Ethics of ASSF listed below, and I wish to apply for membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone (w) _____ (h) _____

CHECK ONE: New Member Renewal

CHECK ONE: Individual (\$20) Family (\$25)

Mail to: Barbara Tansey
 ASSF Membership
 2495 N.W. 35th Avenue
 Miami, FL 33142

ASSF 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 benefit.

FIRST CLASS



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Mailing Address