



The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida



Volume 26, Issue 5

Newsletter of the Society

May 2000

President: Barbara Tansey

Editor: Lisa Weier

The Archaeology of a Neighbor

Please join us for an interesting evening, filled with information and unique the perspective on Cuban archaeology that can only be brought to us by Dr. Jorge Febles. Dr. Febles has lived and worked in Cuba his entire life, and will share his rare insights with our group.

Born in Havana, Cuba, in 1933, he graduated as Bachelor in Sciences at the Institute of Secondary Education at Havana in 1961. In 1974 he graduated as archaeologist from the Superior Course of Archaeology, offered by the Cuban Academy of Sciences. In 1978 he finished his studies of Licentiate in History at the University of Havana and in 1987 he obtained his Ph.D., before the Scientific Council of the Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy at the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the former Soviet Union (Russia), with his dissertation entitled "The Oldest Period of Cuban History (using archaeological data).

He has supervised and realized many archaeological expeditions and investigations in Cuba. In 1979 he received training on lithic industries of Western Europe at the Institute of History of the Material Culture, of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In 1980, 1986 and 1987 he participated in Soviet-Cuban archaeological excavations on Western Siberia, and each time received training (for three months), on different techniques in laboratory and field work.

He has published in Spain, Puerto Rico, Poland, the former Soviet Union and Cuba. He has taught postgraduate courses about the chipped stone industries of the aborigines of Cuba, and General Archaeology of Cuba, in the Cuban Archipelago; Center for Advanced Studies of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, Puerto Rico (1991); University of Southern Maine (1992); Wake Forest University, North Carolina (1995). In 1994 he was awarded a postdoctoral fellow at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Twice (1993 and 1995) he was been awarded by the Cuban Academy of Sciences and the Cuban Book Institute, with the "Review's Award", given to the best scientific papers published in Cuba in the field of Social Sciences. In 1996 he received the Scientific Award Carlos J. Finlay, enacted by the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba. In 1998 he was elected as a Titular Academician of the Cuban Academy of Sciences.

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At present he works as a Research Professor at the Center for Anthropology, Agency of Science and Technology; Member of its Scientifically Council; Member of the Editorial Boards of "Archaeological Studies" (Edit. Academia) and "Science, Innovation and Development" (Institute of Information and Scientific and Technical Documentation). He is head of the scientific project "Ecological Archaeology of the Central Part of Cuba". He developed (within the US) a Fellowship, 1999-2000, by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, entitled "The Application to Archaeology of New Information and Communication Technologies"

Dr. Febles has designed a system for the computer called, "SIAC: A Computer System for Cuban Archaeology" that he will share with us on Thursday, May 11th, 7:30 p.m., Atlantic Radio Telephone, 2495 NW 35th Avenue. Call Barbara Tansey at (305) 633-9636 for directions.

"VASUM IN THE KEYS"

by Jim South

In our last meeting, guest speaker John Beriault showed us a slide of a vasum shell plummet found at Marco Island. A rare find on the Florida mainland, the vasum is very common on Keys sites.

The small but thick and heavy shell, which lives on the reefs of the Caribbean and South Florida, has five distinct folds around the columella.

The Indians of the Keys apparently had many uses for the vasum. They are most commonly found with the columella removed, but unworked beyond this point. Perhaps this was sufficient for a sinker due to the density and weight.

The second most common artifact is where the small end of the columella was sharpened into a drill.

They are also occasionally found polished and with a suspension knob, perhaps for use as a pendant.

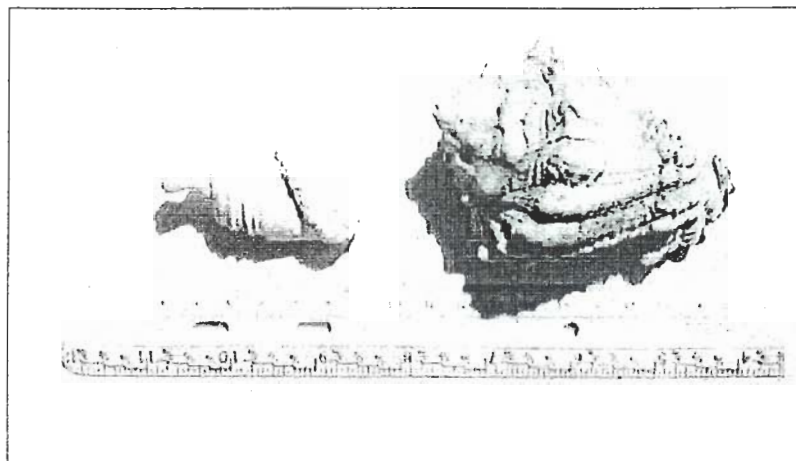


Photo: courtesy of Brian Conesa

We Need Your Help...

ASSF will begin assisting in the initial survey of the **Spring Gardens Historic District Preservation Project**, beginning Sunday, May 7th.

Please contact Dr. Curtis McKinney at 305-255-7960 to coordinate times you can help with the survey and fieldwork.

ASSF MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida meets the 2nd Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m., at Atlantic Radio Telephone, 2495 N.W. 35th Avenue, Miami (near Miami International Airport). Telephone Barbara at (305) 633-9636 for directions.

Continuing Site Restoration of Indian Key

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

Bonus Archaeology Joke:

Why was the archaeologist depressed?
His (her) career was in ruins.

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)

Year 2000 ASSF Election Results

Results tallied at the close of our April meeting are as follows:

President	Barbara Tansey
Vice President	Jim Lord
Treasurer	Brian Conesa
Secretary	Lisa Weier

Re-elected Board Member

Seth Lefkow

New Board Member Jim South

Make time to check out... DINOSAURS! Journey Thru Time

at the Miami Museum of Science.

This exhibition will feature a variety of robotic dinosaurs including a Woolly Mammoth, a hands-on T-Rex, two adult Protoceratops with a nest and an entire Smilodon Family with two adults and two young.

This exhibition runs May 27 - Sept. 10, 2000

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

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.

RETURN ADDRESS:

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

NEXT MEETING: April 13th, 7:30 p.m.

SPEAKER: Dr. Jorge Febles, Cuban Archaeologist

OFFICERS:

Barbara Tansey, President; Jim Lord, Vice President;
 Brian Conesa, Treasurer; Lisa Weier, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Marlene Adams, Bob Carr, Pat Cervi, George Cummings, Darrell Cunningham, Seth Lefkow, Beth Read, Jim South

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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

FIRST CLASS



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