



The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida



Volume 29, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Society

January 2004

President: Barbara Tansey

Editor: Mary Ellen Gray

Ethnobotony

Join us to hear Dr. Bradley Bennett, ethnobotonist, from Florida International University deliver a lively intellectual presentation on Thursday, January 8th. Dr. Bennett is with the Department of Biological Sciences, and the Director of CNET. He will focus on indigenous plants and their usage by the native people.

Join us on Thursday, January 8th, at 7:30 p.m., at the Atlantic Radio & Telephone office building, 2495 N.W. 35th Avenue, Miami.

Contact ASSF President, Barbara Tansey at telephone number (305) 633-9636 for directions, or schedule information.

Hope to see you there!

IN MEMORIUM

James Sterling Lord

This issue is dedicated to Jim's memory with further remembrances inside...

Past Vice President, long time member and dear friend, Jim Lord passed away on 12/18/03. He was a well respected avocational archaeologist who will always be remembered for sharing his knowledge and insights in many aspects of this field. His sense of humor and ability to make, "Lemons out of lemonade" will be sorely missed. – **Mary Ellen Gray**, ASSF Board

When I think of Jim, I think about words, stories, laughter, fake scowls, occasional funny jokes, and a presence greater than any room. When I think of Jim, I think about intelligence, curiosity, detail, and kindness. When I think of Jim, I am reminded of model race cars, fishing, garage sales, Vikings, donated stamps, and scared pigeons. Mostly when I think of Jim, I think about a thoughtfulness and a true friendship that I will never forget. - **BRIAN CONESA**, ASSF Board

In many ways Jim was the backbone of the Society. Barbara's heavy responsibilities were made somewhat easier because of Jim's continuing helpfulness. He was there when he was needed. We will miss him.

John Carruthers, ASSF Board

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∞ IN MEMORIUM - James Sterling Lord ∞

One of my favorite Jim Lord stories happened when he went with us on one of the trips to the Yucatan in Mexico. He asked if he could bring along his son, young Jim, who was about ten or twelve years old at the time. We all agreed that this was fine; he would be an interesting addition to the group.

We rented a van for our tour of the ruins and Jim elected himself to be the driver. Driving the rural roads in Mexico, or any roads in Mexico at that time, was not an easy job so we all readily agreed. Jim claimed he wanted to drive because he was big and it was the only way he could be sure he had enough room in the van. (Our numbers did make it a tight squeeze.) So we set off with Jim driving and Young Jim sort of perched in the center of the front seat.

One day, about half way in the trip we stopped at an open air market on market day in a small Mexican town. Several minutes later Young Jim came up to his dad, visibly upset because someone had a beautiful male cardinal caged and for sale. Young Jim wanted to buy the bird so he could set it free. Big Jim was trying patiently to explain that other cultures view the birds differently than we do, and the people in Mexico were very poor, and they earned money almost any way they could, etc. This approach did not comfort Young Jim, so the upshot was we all chipped in some money so Young Jim could go and buy the cardinal.

Shortly Young Jim was back. He had bought the bird - but the price did not include the cage - which cost considerably more than the bird!

Well, Big Jim from somewhere scrounged a cardboard box and he and Young Jim went off together and came back with the cardinal in the box. We all climbed back in the van, and drove out into the countryside, and down a small rutted lane until the Jims decided we were in safe territory. Then Big Jim and Young Jim got out and let the cardinal go free. ...**Beth Read, ASSF Board**

When we lose a friend, we lose a part of ourselves. In losing Jim Lord we've lost a big part. Not just because of his size (he wasn't called "Big Jim" for nothing), but because of the big part he played in our lives as a friend and ASSF member.

We all have our special memories of Jim. Mine include, among others, exploring for sites on the island off Cedar Key with Barbara and the difficulties we experienced that day and how he helped to overcome them.

Jim Lord was resourceful, level-headed, and hard working. He had a great sense of humor and the timing to go with it. He was a good friend when a good friend was needed.

That he will be missed, is an understatement. That he will be remembered, is a truism Rest in peace, Jim Lord. You did good. - **Seth Lefkow, ASSF Board**

I grew to respect Jim Lord very much as an avocational archaeologist. He was always willing to answer questions. His expertise was on a par with many professional archaeologists. I will miss his help and hope I can learn and contribute to the field as well and as much as he did.

Gary Beiter, Dade County Archaeologist

My friendship with Jim Lord is all the fault of ASSF. When I first came on the board we started a dig at the infamous L&L site. We had a good crew and all of us became good friends. But the thing that really makes or breaks a friendship is driving back and forth to Winter Park four times a year. When I became president of ASSF I had never heard of FAS or seen their journals. Jim and I went up to Winter Park to see what was up. Riding in a car with Jim was great. He talked the whole time and swore at all the cars. Time just flew by. When Jim first went to the FAS meetings he would wear all black, with black hat and black sunglasses. He really intimidated the FAS board. I finally convinced him to wear more casual clothes and people started talking to him and never stopped. The friendship just kept growing. He was there to keep me from yelling at people I shouldn't in my position as president and we would spend hours at postcard shows. I will really miss the long talks and laughs on the phone. We have lost someone who absolutely loved everything about South Florida and he has left a void in my life that can never be filled. - **Barbara Tansey, President, ASSF**

Jim was always open to helping the Historical Museum. He was excited about his recent contributions to our collection and in being able to have artifacts he found on display. He was a valuable source of information and his contributions and knowledge on south Florida history and archaeology will be missed.

- **Jorge Zamanillo, Historical Museum of Southern Florida**

The Passing of Jim Lord: "I Hate When That Happens"

Big Jim loomed in both size and wisdom, displaying a surprising amount of knowledge about archaeology and artifact technology, as well as an abundant curiosity about the past. The hard outer shell was just a mirage, as Jim was genuinely friendly and generous to those people who shared his interest. He was a friend to anyone who was willing to pierce his protective wall with respect and honesty.

His abilities and luck at discovering both artifacts and antiques, often in the trash heaps of Miami is legendary. His contributions were numerous, helping to coordinate various site excavations, providing artifacts and exhibits for archaeology month, being an FAS representative and an endless fountain of knowledge about South Florida archaeology. His work at the L&L site was exemplary and resulted in a co-authored article about the site and the infamous carved bone pin in the Florida Anthropologist.

Big Jim has left a big hole in the heart of everyone who knew him.

- Bob Carr, President Archaeological and Historical Conservancy

I've known Jim for at least 16 years and there has never been a dull moment when we were together. We often disagreed but it was always in a friendly manner. Jim always wanted to explore and one day I mentioned to him that I would like to revisit a site I'd been to before. He was ready to go and we set off to find it. This was a site that was previously dug. When I first observed it, it was quite apparent that whoever was digging was not interested in pottery or bone. Their spoil piles contained many pieces of material that would have been kept by anyone interested in archaeology. I found a piece of pottery ground down to the liking of a heart. However, there was one lobe broken off and I always wanted to find it.



That is why Jim and I were there. But in exploring the spoils of others, Jim came across what turned out to be a rare find. It was a carving of an animal on a piece of bone. Jim showed it to people and the site was referred to as the L&L site. Jim also wrote about it in the FAS Journal (Sept. 1989, vol. 42, #3). We used to kid each other on whose name was represented by the first "L", realizing now that the bone carving was a major find and that Jim wrote the report on it, I will have to concede that the first "L" refers to Lord. Happy Digging Jim - Bill Lyons

I'll always remember Jim sitting in the ASSF Board meetings; always waiting to make a joke out of any issue or comment - no one was safe. He kept the meetings entertaining and I appreciated his sense of humor.

He had such a broad range of interests - besides archaeology and history; he was truly an anthropologist who loved to talk about people and cultures, and connecting with them. I will miss a lot of things about Jim, mostly his sense of humor, but also his knowledge and good heart. - Lisa Weier, ASSF Board

Photo: One big remembrance for Jim Jr. was when he went out exploring with Bill Lyons and Jim, his dad - and his dad found a tricycle.

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: Stacy Hopper
1603 Watrous Drive
Titusville, Florida 32780

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
2495 N.W. 35th Ave.
Miami, Fl 33142

ASSF 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.

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

FIRST CLASS



PLACE STAMP
HERE

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 8, 7:30 pm,
at 2495 N.W. 35th Avenue

SPEAKER: Dr. Bradley Bennett

OFFICERS: Barbara Tansey, President; Jim South,
Vice President; Brian Conesa, Treasurer; Pat Cervi,
Secretary.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Gary Beiter, Carter Burrus,
Jr., Bob Carr, George Cummings, Darrell Cunningham,
Stanley Kiem, Seth Lefkow, Beth Read, Mary Ellen
Gray and Lisa Weier.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Mary Ellen Gray can be
reached at Orchid0017@msn.com

ASSF web page: <http://assf.tripod.com>

Address