



The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida



Volume 29, Issue 5

Newsletter of the Society

May 2004

President: Barbara Tansey

Editor: Mary Ellen Gray

TOUR THE FLORIDA COLLECTION AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

Change of venue! On Thursday, May 13, Sam Boldrick, Manager of the Florida Collection at the Main Library downtown, will conduct a tour for ASSF members and their guests at 7:30p.m. The board will meet at 6:30p.m. in the library. The library address is 101 West Flagler, Miami. The library is part of the Cultural Center, which includes the Historical Museum of S. Florida, and the Miami Art Museum. Discounted and secure, covered parking is available at the Miami-Dade Cultural Center parking garage (\$3), located at the NW corner of Flagler St. and 2nd Ave. Park on the south side of the garage, take the elevator to the second level. Use the "over the street" walkway to the Miami-Dade Cultural Center Plaza. The Main Library is on the left, or west side of the plaza.

Directions: If traveling North on I-95, take the NW 2nd St. exit [Exit 2]. Make a right turn at the light at the bottom of the ramp onto 2nd St. Turn right again onto NW 2nd Ave. Proceed one block. M-D Cultural Center will be visible on the left, and the parking garage is on the right. If traveling South on I-95, take the Orange Bowl/NW 8th St./Miami exit [Exit 3B]. Follow the access road until the fifth traffic light and turn left onto NW 2nd St. Proceed one block. Cultural Center on the left, parking garage on the right. If traveling East on SR 836, after paying the toll stay on the right of the expressway and take the first exit. The signs will guide you to I-95 S, but stay to the right and never get on the I-95. Instead take the 8th St./Port of Miami/Orange Bowl exit. Follow the access road until the fifth traffic light and turn left onto NW 2nd St. Proceed to the second light and make a right onto NW 2nd Ave.

If you get lost call the Florida Room of the Main Library at 305.375.5023, and they will get you back on course.

2004 FAS Annual Conference will be hosted by the Broward County Archaeological Society this year, from May 14-16. This event will be held at the Sheraton Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hotel, 1825 Griffin Rd.

Send in your registration form if you plan to attend, or contact them via email at

<http://web.usf.edu/~fas/annual.html>

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NEWS FROM THE DESK OF...

GARY BEITER

Excavating at the Deering Estate continues on Wednesdays, and Fridays. Members are invited to participate. Call Jim South at 305.451.9469 to verify the time for digging on that particular date.

BOB CARR

Sadly, Alison Elgart-Berry will be leaving the Conservancy next week. She will be Miami's first archaeologist. I think she is going to do a terrific job.

From the Press Release dated 4/19/2004: Archaeologists from the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy working with Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) are uncovering evidence of the foundations and features of the Royal Palm Hotel, dating back to 1897, built on top of a prehistoric site over 1000 years old. Working since April 2003, archaeologists have excavated over 50% of the northwest MDM parking lot revealing well-preserved features from the prehistoric town of Tequesta, Fort Dallas of the Seminole War period, and Royal Palm Hotel. Technicians from Mnemotrix have developed techniques and software that have allowed for a high-resolution peek at many of these features still buried below the parking lot. Unlike the GPR survey of last year, which unfortunately was conducted on an area that had all of its archaeological features destroyed by the construction of the Royal Palm Hotel, this study has uncovered an area rich in artifacts and hidden features - including possible graves located below the basement of the hotel. Excavations during the past year have uncovered several thousand artifacts, including pottery, tools, and even a set of keys from the Royal Palm Hotel. A report of the discovery of these significant features was presented at the City of Miami Historic Preservation Board on April 19, 2004.

2004 ASSF Speakers Schedule

- June 10 John Beriault, Yucatan
- Sept. 9 Jim Clupper – Smithsonian pictures of FL artifacts/or Prehistoric Tool Making
- Oct. 14 Rick Ferrer – South Dade
- Nov. 11 Bob Carr or Gary Beiter update
- Dec. 9 or 10 Holiday Dinner – no meeting

If you have an idea for a speaker, or someone you'd like to recommend, please contact Beth Read at W4YIH@earthlink.net or Pat Cervi at pcerv@msn.com.

ASSF monthly meetings are held monthly every 2nd Thursday at Atlantic Radio & Telephone, 2495 NW 35th Ave, 7:30 pm. Call Barbara at 305-633-9636 for directions

Miami One Dig

Bob Carr will be hosting a dig at the Miami One project on Saturday, May 22nd at 10:30 am. The dig is on the parking lot and people may have to pay for parking.

Take I-95 to Biscayne Boulevard and exit left on Biscayne Boulevard. Make a right at the light; make 1st left in from of the Dupont Plaza. Make the next left at a light in from of the Dupont plaza and go down a short way to the opening of a parking area.

If coming up Brickell from the South, turn right in front of Dupont Plaza, and then next light make a left.

Bob's had 60 offers on the bricks, and they'll receive a membership to AHC archaeological and Historical Conservancy and a tour of the site. The bricks were in a bulldozed pile that had been left in 1930. This donation goes directly to get carbon dating and to analyze artifacts.

ANOTHER INTRIGUING "WORKING" VACATION

By ASSF Member, Seth Lefkow

For the second time in less than two years, I volunteered to serve in the Israeli army this past March. With me were two ladies from south Broward, and we were joined by dozens of other volunteers from all over the world (a third of whom were not Jewish.) We lived in the barracks, ate in the mess hall, and were assigned the "grunt" work - the dull repetitious or the tedious exacting stuff that otherwise would have to be contracted out or done by the soldiers.

On our weekends off, very inexpensive tours were arranged. Not fifty people on a bus but seven in a van with a knowledgeable guide/driver.

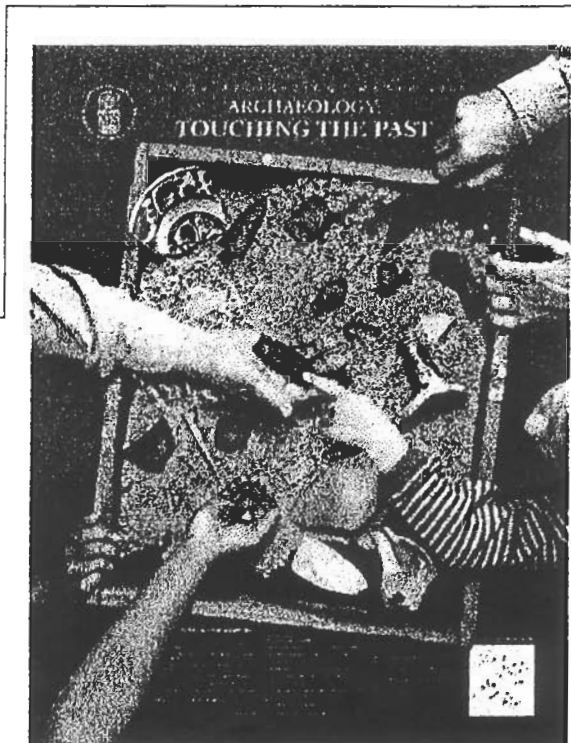
One of our weekends included Caesarea, aqueducts, both above- and below- the ground, Roman theatres, and a tour to an excavation that runs down and alongside the Western Wall taking one back to one civilization after another as the tour descends. Another tour brought us to a Nabataean city in the Negev Desert where our guide insisted I take a few pieces of pottery from a pile of archaeological rejects, (some with data numbers still on them.) We explored limestone caves used as catacombs, examined an ancient olive press that dated back to Biblical times, and walked streets in Jerusalem in Reeboks that had been walked thousands of years ago in sandals.

Israel has magnificent museums and we managed to visit most of them before and after our time in the army. In a country where every rock hides a piece of history, and every hill has a story, one cannot help but be awed to see 'in the flesh' what had previously been only pictures in a book. And spending the night in a Bedouin tent can seem like the Hilton after seeing the desert sunset.

Setting the Record Straight...

In the Miami Herald article of April 21st entitled, "\$100 buys you a brick of hotel built by Flagler," Bob Carr was misrepresented when the main focus of this article was taken from a side comment he made about selling a disturbed pile of bricks from the Royal Palm Hotel to raise money for researching the project. The article also stated they were selling bricks being uncovered in the current excavation - which is not the case. Any donations received would be for bricks recovered from the 1930's demolition piles.

This is the largest archaeological project ever conducted in South Florida. So far they have recovered Tequesta (from an ancient nearby cemetery), and Early Spanish remains (Fort Dallas), as well as those from the Royal Palm Hotel. Geographical finds include the discovery that a creek once flowed through the area 10,000 years ago.



This year's Florida Anthropological Society's Archaeology Month

official poster. 



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:

- 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.
- 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
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NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 13th, 7:30 pm

Address

SPEAKER: Sam Boldrick - Florida Collection

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>